DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 21 Section 1 October 24, 1925.

TAXATION The Associated Press to-day reports: "Retirement from the field of inheritance taxation by the Federal Government in favor of the States, was asked yesterday by the Governors of six States and representatives of eleven other State executives before the House Ways and Means Committee. The Federal estate tax, which is one of the main fighting points in the proposed revision of the revenue law, also was assailed by the American Bankers Association and the national committee on inheritance. Representative Ramseyer of Iowa, who proposed the increased rates adopted by Congress last session, alone defended this tax as a Federal source of revenue in the all-day assault conducted against it. Various schemes were outlined for the Government's withdrawal from this field of taxation. The national committee on inheritance taxation proposed that the tax be retained for six years, but that the rates be modified at once. The bankers association asked immediate repeal, as recommended by Secretary Mellon."

TEXAS HIGHWAY PAYMENTS HALTED An Austin, Tex., dispatch to the press to-day says: "Suspension of payments to contractors for highway topping work was ordered October 23 by Gov. Miriam A. Ferguson in a letter to Frank V. Lanham, chairman of the Texas highway commission. The Governor said the Attorney General had openly stated that he intends to bring suits to cancel certain highway contracts, and instructed the chairman to make every defense permissible to protect the interests of the State. This action by the Governor was characterized by Attorney General Moody as a 'belated effort of James E. Ferguson (husband of the Governor) to save the administration from the condemnation that may result when the people of Texas know the extent of the extravagance in awarding contracts for surfacing State highways.'"

ECONOMIC POSITION OF AGRICULTURE Although the economic position of agriculture has been more unfavorable since 1920 than at any time during the preceding twenty years, the farmer this fall is operating with greater confidence in his immediate prospects than he has done at any time since 1920. Such is the picture presented by the facts gathered by the National Industrial Conference Board, in a study of the agricultural situation as it has developed during the last century, and of the effects it was subjected to during the war and the post-war period. In appraising the present outlook, considerable weight is given by the board to the marked increase of activity in the agricultural implement industry from July to August of this year, following a similar strong upturn in the same industry earlier in the year. Farm prices at the beginning of 1925 were 39 per cent higher than in 1914, but living costs stood 50 per cent higher; farm implement prices, 82 per cent higher; farm wages, 64 per cent higher, and interest and taxes, 145 per cent above the 1914 level. (Press, Oct. 24.)

Section 2

Chinese Egg Exports — There was a large increase in the exports of egg products from Hankow, China, in July, 1925, compared with the exports in July, 1924. These exports amounted to 202,770 pounds, valued at $92,656, in July, 1924, and 5,368,914 pounds, valued at $1,078,768, in July, 1925. (Press, Oct.21.)

Food Prices — The retail food index issued by the United States Department of Labor through the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows for September 15, 1925, a decrease of 0.3 per cent since August 15, 1925; an increase of over 8 per cent since September 15, 1924; and an increase of 55 per cent since September 15, 1913. The index number (1913 = 100.0) was 160.4 in August and 159.0 in September, 1925.

Grain Trading — An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for October 22 says: "Word comes from Chicago that the Board of Trade in that city has completed an organization to supervise dealing and if possible to prevent wide and disturbing price swings in the future. The committee appointed for that purpose is said to be closely similar to that which has for a good while been functioning in the New York Stock Exchange, and will attempt to perform about the same functions. It would be idle to expect prices now to remain stable, or, as most farmers would prefer, to keep constantly on the up-grade so long as there is grain on the farms for sale. That no such achievements have been possible at the New York exchange, is, of course, common knowledge, as is likewise true of the other speculative exchanges that have taken steps similar to that now taken by the Chicago Board of Trade. The truth of the matter is simply that such a situation as that arising in the grain trade last winter has causes that reach far deeper than the trading rules of exchanges. At bottom the trouble is, of course, that a relatively large number of the rank and file of the people become crazed with the idea that by coming into a market that is already highly inflated they can get rich quickly and easily."

Grape Car Shortage — The Philadelphia Ledger of October 21 says: "Stress of demand for refrigerator space for the movement of perishable crops is approaching a peak unparalleled in the history of the markets. Not that the crop situation has shown improvement, nor because the transportation companies were not prepared, through the forecasts of the American Railway Association and the Atlantic States Shippers' Advisory Board, for the expected increase in perishable fruits and vegetables. The grape is responsible. Harvest and marketing of apples both in the Northwest and Middle Atlantic States has been going forward at normal rate. Celery and potatoes require regular attention. But the grape situation, particularly in the transcontinental movement of California's heavy-juice grades, has become a problem that is worrisome to shipper, railroad and receiver. So strong is the demand for wine grapes that buyers are using Muscats for wine purposes more extensively than ever before, and the cry from the shippers in California for more cars is being heard in the most influential transportation circles. The secret of the demand, according to local factors, lies in the national Prohibition act. Sales of grapes in the local markets, averaging upward of 100 cars a day since the 1st of October, and expected to reach new high records during the coming six months, have not only caused a disturbance in the market structure, but have precipitated an unprecedented car shortage in California and other growing centers that has attracted the attention of the American Railway Association and similar advisory bodies. In New York sales have averaged more than 1,000 cars daily."

Highways

An editorial in The Washington Post for October 23 says: "Plans for improving the boulevard between Washington and Baltimore appear to be assuming concrete form. John R. Mackall, chairman of the Maryland State Roads Commission, has announced that he will ask the next general assembly for authority to widen the highway to 100 feet. The present width is sixty feet. Mr. Mackall's statement, it was explained, was in answer to the suggestion that the State should build an additional boulevard connecting Baltimore with the National Capital. The State Highway Commission favors the widening of the existing roads rather than the construction of new ones, not only because of community development along the present routes but also because of the great cost of building entirely new arteries.....The time is not far distant when it will be necessary to have an additional highway in order to take care of the increasing number of vehicles. Indeed, the suggestion that a 320-foot highway be planned is not looking too far into the future. England is planning a 226-mile highway which is to have no cross roads and which will pass through no towns. It will be double, with a roadway for slow traffic and one for fast travel, with no speed limit. It would seem that if England can consider the building of such a road this country can look forward to highways wide enough to take care of the traffic. The United States has more than 85 per cent of the automobiles of the world. It should have the finest highways and the best system of road control of any country on earth."

Kentucky Tobacco Pool

A Hopkinsville, Ky., dispatch to the press of October 20 says: "The most revolutionary step ever taken by a farmers' cooperative organization in this State is announced by the Dark Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association in Kentucky, Tennessee and Indiana. The pool has released more than 70,000 members from legal hindrances to selling their 1925 tobacco in any way they desire. The action has no effect on the Burley Tobacco Growers' Association, which has more than 108,000 members in Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia and Missouri, and is the largest cooperative organization in the South. The burley cooperative is now working on renewals of contracts with farmers, as the five years' tenure of pledges will have expired next year. The board of directors of the Dark Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association adopted a resolution which absolves its members, who sell their crops outside the pool, of any penalties which, under the Pool act in Kentucky, lay them liable to legal action. The board also carried out a program of economy, reorganization and salary-slashing that will effect a saving of $150,000 a year."

Waterway Development

An editorial in The New York Times for October 20 says: "In his address at Kansas City yesterday upon the Mississippi Valley waterways, Secretary Hoover immediately made his subject one of national importance. In twenty-five years the population of the country will show an increase of 40,000,000. In spite of motor vehicle competition, the railways are congested with freight. So fast is population increasing that in periods of industrial activity and agricultural expansion every means of transportation can be profitably employed. Such being the case, 'we can now quit,' Mr. Hoover submitted, 'the destructive battle between waterborne and rail service for an end of mutual co-ordination.' Precisely the same thing was said by Representative Burton of Ohio nearly twenty years ago. About the same time Mr. Harahan of the Illinois Central, advocating a

Lakes-to-Gulf deep waterway, although it would parallelhhis own railroad, declared that 'a wholesome competition, whether of rail lines or of rail and water lines, is not destructive but is productive of good to all.' Unfortunately, that view has not always been held by managers of railroads. Largely owing to their hostility, waterways development was checked and often stopped entirely. James J. Hill could see an economic benefit as far as any man. He was, therefore, not afraid of waterways competition. He said that while 'no vessel of 1,000 tons burden can compete with a box car with 10,000 tons burden, the problem is mastered--a fifteen-foot channel is needed.' The late Herbert Quick, who wrote an informing book about the relation of inland waterways to railway transportation and the national welfare, used to say that paradoxical as it seemed to 'railway men' (he excepted transportation specialists like Hill and Harahan), waterways would powerfully promote the prosperity of the very roads with which they competed.' The waterways help to make local business by developing the country, and there is bound to be an overflow of freight which the railroads may handle. Mr. Quick knew his Middle West....The time has come when there must be co-ordination between railroad, river and highway means of transportation. In the past, river transportation has been one of 'isolated units,' to quote Mr. Hoover. He appeals for systems of water 'trunk lines' with 'collateral feeders.' Two great systems stand out: the Mississippi and the Great Lakes. The first, if properly developed, would have 9,000 miles of connected waterways; 6,000 of laterals or feeders. A depth of nine feet ought to be maintained on the chief rivers, and a connection should be made at Chicago with the Great Lakes. Mr. Hoover meets the criticism that the 1,150-mile river stretch of transportation from St.Louis to New Orleans has not paid after dredging to nine feet by saying that it would be profitable enough if other 'trunk lines' were completed and feeders were provided so as to make of the Mississippi 'a real transportation system.'...It is pointed out by Mr. Hoover that the Mississippi and the Great Lakes systems 'penetrate the heart of American agriculture,' and that waterborne traffic with its cheaper cost is peculiarly adapted to primary agricultural products.' Improve the waterways and there will be a better distribution of population and industry."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial on Federal cotton estimates in the New Orleans Times Picayune for October 12 says: "During the current cotton growing season the United States Department of Agriculture has been issuing twice each month a series of reports on the progress and prospects of the crop which have been greatly damaging to all branches of the cotton industry. These reports have been issued in accordance with the mandate of a law enacted two years ago which changed the old system of monthly reports to a twice-a-month series extending from the beginning of the cotton growing season to the time of issuing final estimate of the yield in December. The net result has been to keep the whole cotton trade in a state of nervousness and uncertainty....The practical demonstration of the evils arising from the present system of Government crop reporting which this season has developed suggests the advisability of Congress promptly repealing the present law and limiting the official reports to monthly issues showing the the condition average without any attempt at estimating the yield, which after all is pure guesswork. The present system is utterly discredited and the Crop Reporting Board's usefulness ended by its last exhibition of jumping the indicated production 820,000 bales in two weeks. The Census

Bureau's reports on the amounts ginned up to given dates is not in any way subject to criticism, as these reports deal solely with accomplished facts and entirely eliminate estimates or guesswork. They are the only reliable guides to the probable outturn of the crop. They should not be disturbed in the least."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Oct. 23: Chicago hog prices closed at $12 for the top; bulk of sales $9.90 to $11.10; beef steers choice $14.25 to $16.25; good $10.25 to $15; heifers, good and choice $7.25 to $12; common and medium $5 to $7.25; cows, good and choice $5.50 to $8.75; medium and common $3.85 to $5.50; canners and cutters $3 to $3.85; vealers, medium to choice $9 to $13; [illegible] heavy calves, medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $13.50 to $15.25; yearling wethers, medium to choice $9.75 to $12.75; fat ewes, common to choice $4.50 to $8.25; feeding lambs, medium to choice $14 to $16.

Pennsylvania sacked Round White potatoes closed at $2.85 to $3 per 100 pounds in eastern cities. New York Baldwin apples brought $5 to $5.50 per barrel in New York City and $3.75 to $4 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Danish type cabbage declined $2 to $5 per ton to a closing range of $14 to $20 in leading eastern markets; $12 to $13 f.o.b. Rochester. New York and Midwestern yellow onions ranged $2 to $2.75 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; $1.80 to $2.20 f.o.b. shipping points.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 51 1/2¢; Philadelphia 53¢; Boston 51¢.

Grain prices quoted October 23: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.43 to $1.68. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.67. No.1 hard winter Chicago $1.51 1/2; No.2 hard winter Kansas City $1.52 to $1.60; No.3 hard winter St. Louis $1.56. No.2 mixed corn Chicago 81 1/2¢; Kansas City 80 1/2¢; No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 76 1/2¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 81 3/4¢; St. Louis 80 3/4¢; Kansas City 81 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 81¢; Minneapolis 81 1/2¢. No.2 white corn Chicago 81 3/4¢; St. Louis 81¢; Kansas City 83 1/4¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 39 1/2¢; Minneapolis 34 1/2¢; St. Louis 39 3/4¢; No.2 white oats Kansas City 39 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 8 points during the week, closing at 20.92¢ per lb. New York December future contracts declined 21 points, closing at 21.28¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Oct. 23,	Oct. 22,	Oct. 23, 1924
20 Industrials	153.29	152.13	102.18
20 R.R.stocks	104.51	104.78	88.91

(Wall St. Jour., Oct. 24.)

- - -

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XII., No. 22 Section 1 October 26, 1925.

SENATOR CAMERON ASKS AID FOR STOCKMEN The press of October 25 says: "Unless the cattle industry is to be driven from the United States Congress must pass remedial legislation at the next session, Senator Cameron of Arizona declared October 24 in a summary of his findings as a result of the Senate committee investigation of public lands. Virtually all of the cattle men of the West are on the verge of bankruptcy, he asserted, adding that if something is not done within the next year they will be forced out of business. The cattle men are not asking for charity, but for an opportunity to retrench their war losses so that the United States will not be dependent on South America and Australia for their beef supply with the resultant high prices, he said. The cattle men's difficulty, he said, can be traced to Government restrictions on grazing lands on the public domain and the national forests. At the next session he declared he intended to make an effort to give the cattle men the right to lease land on the public domain for at least ten years with the privilege to fence the property. The legislation also would include establishment of a nominal, uniform grazing fee in the national forests, which would prevent the Government from charging 75 cents a head one year and $1.50 the next."

NEW ENGLAND SAVINGS AND FLORIDA A Boston dispatch to the press of October 25 states that the small savings bank depositor in common with the depositor in the commercial banks of New England is taking his turn at speculating in the Florida real estate boom. Bank officers said the aggregate of withdrawals sent South had assumed enormous proportions. One Boston savings bank president estimated that $2,000 a day was being sent to Florida by customers. A suburban bank estimated its Florida land withdrawals at $10,000 a week. One of the larger commercial banks estimated that its customers had sent $1,000,000 to Florida. Springfield, Worcester and other cities and towns reported similar withdrawals.

AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED Practical methods for bringing into common focus the interests of agriculture and other industries of the north central and western sections of the country will be considered at an agricultural conference of chambers and associations of commerce of that region to be held at St. Paul, November 13 and 14, under the general auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. The conference has been called, the national chamber announces to-day, to bring together representatives of commercial organizations, including representatives of farm interests, of the States of Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Michigan, for the discussion of trade-area agricultural problems. These include agricultural credit and the marketing of farm products. The initiative in bringing about the forthcoming conference was taken by Edward Barr, agricultural secretary, and R. E. Hilton, general secretary, of the St. Paul Association of Commerce. The list of topics has been worked out through joint effort by the agricultural service of the national chamber of commerce, the Department of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota and the St. Paul Association. "There is no doubt", said John W. O'Leary, president of the national chamber, in a statement concerning the St.Paul conference, "that the artificial line of distinction between business and agriculture is disappearing. The farmer who produces food products is in many respects as much concerned with business as the manufacturer who produces fabricated steel. They both are confronted by problems of financing, marketing, and distribution...."

Section 2

Florida Production

A review of the Florida situation is given in Manufacturers Record for October 22 by George M. Chapin. In this he says: "Because of lack of labor, the State in 1924 imported to feed its people and guests 600,000 cases of eggs. Also, it imported beef and other meats, dairy and poultry products to the value of $80,000,000, which might have been produced at home with the necessary labor. Sweet milk under refrigeration was shipped from Chicago in carloads to Miami, Tampa and other Florida points that should have come from Florida pastures. The annual citrus crop for the recent season was 17,800,000 boxes, worth to the State $52,450,000, and the growers received $30,000,000 for it on the trees. This crop will soon be 50,000,000 boxes annually and doubtless it will be correspondingly more valuable to the growers. Florida's tobacco crop in 1924 was 5,852,000 pounds, an increase of more than 1,000,000 pounds over the product of 1923. Scores of nurserymen are raising ferns for the needs of northern florists. The product sells for more than $3,000,000 a year and the demand is greater than the supply. More than 55,000,000 pounds of peanuts were grown and marketed in Florida last year, which was an increase of 12,000,000 pounds over the production of 1923, and the markets clamor for more. Bananas are grown in the middle counties of the State of finer quality than the importations from tropical countries. In Florida the plants bear the second season and the crop is worth $1,000 an acre, with ready sale. The list of soil products is a long one and has often been recited. The production is growing year by year and the demand keeps pace with the increase of production. In no branch of industry is the need greater for competent labor. The exports of Florida-grown food products--fruits, vegetables, nuts and the like--have averaged the equivalent of one carload every four and a half minutes, day, night, Sundays and holidays, during the past season. The rate of a carload a minute is likely to be reached within the next two years.....How long is this real estate activity in Florida to continue? When will the end come? No one in Florida will venture a guess. The railroads already are planning and preparing to handle greater crowds than they have ever before brought into the State. The popular belief is voiced in the words of an enthusiastic realtor in the southern part of the State: 'When will it end? Why, we've just got started. It's going to last as long as we have this God-given climate and as along as these empty acres keep screaming for labor to make them blossom and bear.'"

Forest Conservation

"Forest Conservation Becomes a Reality" is the title of an eight-page article, the first of a series on using trees and having them, by French Strother, in the World's Work for November. The author says: "A big change has taken place in the Conservation movement, a change the general public is not aware of. Hope has succeeded to panic. The story of this change of mood is a story of hard-won knowledge triumphing over the despair of ignorance, and of human courage and good will mastering the forces of fear and distrust....Hope is the new mood of the advance guard of conservation. New knowledge has been accumulated in the last ten years, and knowledge here, as always, has dissipated panic. Conservationists now know that forests regenerate themselves if Man will rightly cooperate with Nature to make a second growth of trees spring up where fire and ax have leveled down the first. Lumbermen now know that their business need not be that of migratory miners of rich tree deposits, but can be a permanent business for harvesters of succeeding crops of trees upon

the same soil, generation after generation. Some lumbermen have already proved that they have a 'perpetual operation' in their present timber holdings. Others have hired expert foresters and economists to convince them that they, too, can face the future with confidence that hereafter they can be manufacturers and not merely prospectors. And, most hopeful of all, the conservationists and the lumbermen have learned these lessons together, drawn closer and closer together in cooperative efforts to conquer a common enemy, fire, and to learn by the methods of science all that can be known about the natural reproductive processes of tree life. It can now be safely predicted that America is never going the way of Asia in forest exhaustion. There is going to be a transition period in which lumber will be relatively scarce and dear, but it will be succeeded by a permanent supply equal to the demand, at a price that the public can afford to pay. Our protective forest covers at the headquarters of our streams will be maintained to conserve and regulate their flow. Irrigation and water power will be protected. The future is safe. But present knowledge must be applied, and present movements of cooperation must be intensified, if this rosy vision of the future--now known to be wholly possible--is to be made fully to come true....."

Fur-Farming in Canada

The expansion of fur-farming in Canada is shown by a report of the industry for the past year just issued by the Federal Government, with the statement that the rapid growth indicates that it will become in time one of the most important activities of the Dominion. The latest report shows that 333 fur farms were added during the year, of which 287 were fox farms and 36 for other fur-bearing animals. The total now exceeds 1,550 farms. Accurate statistics dealing with muskrat and beaver farms are not yet available. (Press, Oct. 22.)

Production

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for October 23 says: "If it is a public benefaction to make two blades of grass grow where one grew before, what is to be said of making a thousand pounds of cotton where 141 grew before? This has been accomplished by a Texas farmer. It is difficult to conceive of a greater service to the whole cotton producing South. This feat, performed last season, is mentioned because of the stimulating effect it has had on other Texas producers. It was brought about through a well organized movement known as 'More cotton on fewer acres.' The honor of starting this belongs to the Citizens National Bank of Tyler, Smith County, in East Texas. Through the efforts of this bank, in 1923, the business men of Tyler offered prizes for high yields of certain crops. The winner of the cotton prize made eight bales on five acres, averaging about 765 pounds to the acre. The Dallas Morning News and the Weekly Farm News, both under the same management, took up this matter, and in 1924 offered prizes aggregating $1,500. In spite of the drought, the winner of the first prize of $1,000, John W. McFarlane, raised 5,081 pounds on five acres, averaging 1,016 pounds to the acre, against 141, the average for the State last year. ...The great value of this movement is in the fact that those who are offering the prizes are gathering data on the methods pursued, which are given to the farmers. They are not advised, but they are told what methods others have taken in attaining extraordinary results. The manufacturer who does not study to reduce operating costs is headed for bankruptcy. One important way of reducing costs is by increasing production per unit of man and machine, casting aside old ideas and scrapping machinery. It must be the same in agriculture, making every acre produce more, and devoting to cotton only land capable of high production. If it costs 25 cents a pound

to raise 140 pounds of cotton on an acre, it is folly for a man to use methods that will not produce more, thus tying himself to a treadmill existence in which hard work will never get him anywhere. The prosperity of the United States, the high standard of living, and the comforts we enjoy are largely the results of increased production of commodities. Those who are engaged in increasing the yield of cotton are to be numbered among those who are performing a great service to the country."

Production and Prices

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for October 23 says: "Despite sundry warning statements from the Department of Agriculture in Washington and other quarters, farmers in the leading wheat growing districts have, according to current reports, very substantially increased their acreage of winter wheat....Large acreage and reasonably good growing conditions in other producing countries in the meantime have assured and are assuring good world supplies of grain during the next twelve months. If the American farmer succeeds this next season in obtaining an average yield on the further enhanced acreage now said to be under winter wheat, and the rest of the world has at least good normal crops, as it seems reasonable to expect, it will be more or less certain that the American producer will next year find himself with large supplies on hand which can not be disposed of to much advantage. We are harvesting a large crop of cotton. Just how large is not yet known, of course. But there is little reason to believe that the output will finally prove to be less than a rather exceptionally large one. So far cotton prices are upon a distinctly profitable level to the producer. It is held by a good many with numerous contacts with the cotton belt that if it proves possible for the farmer to dispose of this crop for something in the neighborhood of 20c, fifty million acres will next year be planted to cotton. That may or may not be an entirely well founded view of the probabilities of the situation, but it may safely be predicted that if good profits are forthcoming from the current crop a substantial enlargement of acreage will take place next year. Of course, in the case of cotton particularly, a large acreage is by no means synonymous with an exceptional output, but few careful observers would hesitate to assert that a substantially enhanced cotton acreage next year would carry real danger for the producer. Here is a situation that is worthy of some thought. The farmer and his soi-disant friend in political circles are eternally harping upon the fact that the farming industry is not in the nature of the case kept so easily in proper relationship to markets as are most branches of manufacturing. That, of course, is true in the abstract. Yet the question may well be raised whether the average agricultural producer does anything like what he could do in this direction. To the outside observer it appears plain that if the farmers of the country by and large employed the foresight that characterizes the more intelligent business executives in other fields there would be much less loss incident to overproduction at a time when consumption is inclined to lag....Is it not possible for our now highly organized farmers to look a little further ahead? They have in their employ, or at least they could if they wish have in their employ, some of the ablest men in the country. They are virtually entirely freed from the irksome provisions of our anti-trust laws. Is there any reason why they as a group should not study the situation with care and learn, each member for himself if inborn individualism renders it necessary, what a wise production policy is, and then proceed accordingly?"

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

A New Orleans dispatch to the press to-day says: "The slowing down of business in the cotton trading markets during the past week was owing to natural hesitation in advance of to-day's Government report. Therefore it again called attention to the bad effects upon the market of the present system of official crop reporting and the desirability of returning to the monthly system as soon as possible. The present season's series of official crop reports will soon come to an end, but before the next season rolls around it is devoutly hoped in the trade that Congress will authorize a return to the system of monthly reports."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

For the week ended October 24: Pennsylvania sacked Round White potatoes ranged $2.65 to $3 per 100 pounds in eastern city wholesale markets. Maine sacked Green Mountains closed at $3.25 to $3.65 in a few cities, bulk stock $2.60 to $2.80 f.o.b. Presque Isle. Sweet potatoes declined in most city markets and at Eastern Shore Virginia shipping points. Tennessee Nancy Halls mostly $1.25 to $1.50 in the Middle West. Apple prices fairly well sustained. New York Baldwin apples brought $4.50 to $5 per barrel in New York City and $3.75 to $4 f.o.b. Rochester. Cabbage prices sagged off a little from the level of a week ago. Onions irregular. New York yellows ranged $2 to $2.65 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers and $1.80 to $2.10 f.o.b. Rochester.

Top prices of hogs at Chicago to-day was 60¢ lower than a week ago standing at $11.40 while the bulk of sales ranging from $9.90 to $11.10 were 30 to 60¢ lower. Fed steers of value to seller $12 downward and most yearlings are 25 to 50¢ lower than a week ago. Stockers and feeders are steady to 25¢ lower approximately 23,000 western cattle were offered as compared with 24,000 a week ago. Bulk of sales for the week were as follows: Grain fed steers $9.50 to $12.35, grass steers $7 to $8.75, fat cows $4.15 to $6, heifers $5.25 to $6.50, canners and cutters $3.15 to $3.65, veal calves $11.50 to $12.25, stockers and feeders $6 to $7.75. Slaughter lambs are steady, feeding lambs strong to 25¢ higher and sheep strong as compared with a week ago. Native and range fat lambs sold at a top of $13.50, feeding lambs $16, fat yearling wethers $12.25, ewes $8.35. Fresh Meats (Western Dressed) New York prices for October 24 on good grade meats: steer beef $15 to $20; veal $16 to $18; lamb $23 to $25; mutton $15 to $16; light pork loins $22 to $24; heavy loins $18 to $21.

Grain market showing downward trend. Wheat futures sharply lower on increased country marketings although world price level practically unchanged. Cash wheat weak with lowered premiums. Corn futures at new low for crop around 3 cents lower than week ago. Cash corn following decline in futures as prices working toward new crop basis.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 20 points during the week, closing at 20.85¢ per lb. New York December future contracts declined 26 points, closing at 21.27¢.

Moderate receipts and more active inquiry holding hay market steady. Quoted October 24: No.1 timothy-Boston $26.50; New York $29; Cincinnati $25.50; Pittsburgh $26; Chicago $26; St. Louis $27; Kansas City $18.25; Memphis $26. No.1 alfalfa - Kansas City $21.75; Omaha $18.50; No.1 prairie - Kansas City $14.50; Omaha $14.25; Chicago $20; St.Louis $19; Minneapolis $16. Feed markets quiet but steady. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Oct. 24,	Oct. 23,	Oct. 24, 1924
20 Industrials	152.97	153.29	102.53
20 R.R.stocks	104.62	104.51	89.33

(Wall St. Jour., Oct. 26.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 23 Section 1 October 27, 1925.

CARAWAY ASSAILS COTTON REPORT

Alleging that "the Government seems to lend itself to every movement to depress the price of cotton," Senator T. H. Caraway, of Arkansas, last night assailed the latest estimate of the Department of Agriculture covering the 1925 cotton crop, and predicted a movement in the next session to abolish or regulate the New York and New Orleans cotton exchanges. Latest Government figures, issued yesterday, estimate the 1925 cotton crop at approximately 15,200,000 bales, or some 400,000 bales more than was estimated two weeks ago. This latest estimate is decried by Senator Caraway and many other southern members as too high. (Press, Oct. 27.)

BARTLETT ON THE REPORT

"The Government report was again a shock to the cotton trade and clearly indicates how impossible it is to forecast a crop early in the year," said Edward E. Bartlett, jr., former president of the New York Cotton Exchange. "Early crop reports should be abandoned, as they unquestionably are a disturbing influence to the cotton trade. It is unbelievable that the cotton crop has improved 300,000 bales in the last two weeks."

A New Orleans dispatch says: "December cotton dropped 127 points from its opening high, or more than $6 a bale yesterday, on receipts of the Government estimate of cotton production. Losses of 81 to 91 points from the opening highs were shown before receipt of the Government estimate. (Press, Oct. 27.)

AGRICULTURAL EXPERT DEAD

A Kansas City dispatch to the press to-day states that Dr. Henry Jackson Waters, internationally known agricultural expert and editor of the Weekly Kansas City Star, died of pneumonia at his home there last night.

TRUCK SAVES FREIGHT TIME

An Associated Press dispatch from New York to-day says: "The use of motor trucks to bridge a forty-five-mile gap between two railway systems for the shipment of through freight is involved in an unusual traffic agreement which was signed yesterday by the Buffalo and Erie Railway and the Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Railroad. Operation of the trucks between Erie and Ashtabula will permit the movement of freight between Buffalo and Cleveland at a material saving of time, but with no additional expense, traffic officials of the two roads announced."

GRAIN EXPORTS

United States grain exports last week were 1,840,000 bushels, as compared with 2,254,000 bushels the previous week. Commerce Department figures yesterday gave the following comparisons between last week's exports and those of the week before: Wheat, 265,000 bushels, against 972,000 bushels; rye, none, against 43,000 bushels; oats, 803,000, against 53,000; corn, 283,000, against 249,000; barley, 489,000, against 937,000. Canadian grain exported last week through United States ports was 4,832,000 bushels, against 2,462,000 the week before, while North American wheat flour exports were 291,000 barrels, against 341,000 barrels. (Press, Oct. 27.)

Section 2

Agriculture and Business

O. E. Bradfute, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, writing to Farm and Dairy for October 23, says: "We have a chart in our office in Chicago which shows what happens to the industries when things go wrong with agriculture. As you follow that chart, one line of which shows the prosperity of agriculture and the other the bankruptcies or failures in business, you will find that just as agriculture goes up and we have a profitable year or a profitable period, failures of industries diminish in number; and whenever agriculture reaches a depressed condition business failures increase in about the same proportion. That has been very marked in this country for very many years past. I think it is, therefore, absolute proof that we are dependent upon each other and the success of one is conditioned by the success of the other....."

Industrial South

An editorial in The New York Times for October 25 says: "The New South which Dr. Frank Bohn describes in another section of to-day's Times is the industrial South. Florida is not in his picture, the Florida where men by converting leagues of sand and swamp into winter resorts and modern cities have amassed great wealth in a few years. The industrial South has had a slower growth, but of late its development seems to have come with a rush. People forget that the foundation of the Florida expansion was laid many years ago by far-sighted northern capitalists, who only now are receiving their reward. Miami, for instance, is a flourishing city and promises to be a metropolis. Skyscrapers and institutional buildings have risen from its sands, but it is not the wand of a magician that has worked the transformation. Practical men with long purses have wrought the change. The New South has risen from the ruins of the war between the States, which left the partisans of the Lost Cause only the natural resources of their country....The industrial South sweeps from Danville, in Virginia, to Birmingham, in Alabama. Its area is less than 50,000 square miles. For most of its length, extending through five States, the Blue Ridge looks down upon it, sending many rivers to the sea, which will be the source of inexhaustible electric power. The industrial South is builded upon cotton, steel and tobacco, the raw material and the manufactured products. Massachusetts is still the foremost cotton factory State, but North Carolina has worked into second place, South Carolina into third. The largest cotton factory in the world has just been built at Danville. Labor is cheaper in the South because housing and food and the raw materials that enter into manufacture are cheaper. Dr. Bohn says that 'a wage of two dollars a day in Southern Piedmont is equivalent to at least four dollars a day in New England.' That is one reason why the cotton industry is moving from New England to the South. In 1923 the number of operatives in the cotton mills of Massachusetts was 113,707; the total for North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia was 190,567. Wages were much lower in the South. The average income of a worker in the Massachusetts cotton mills was $1,012 while the South Carolina operative received $650. Nevertheless, 'the purchasing power of the yearly wage gives an advantage to the worker in the South.' Birmingham, the steel city of the South, doubled its population between 1910 and 1920. Alabama has become the third iron and steel State, displacing Illinois. At its door Birmingham has all the coal it needs for manufacturing. In tobacco products the North is still in the lead, but the South is steadily closing the gap. North Carolina is first in the value of tobacco products. The waterpower resources of the industrial South greatly exceed those of the

North. With a climate like that of Italy, but blessed with resources which Italy lacks, the industrial South faces a prosperity to which no bounds can be set. It is a theme not only for the economist but for the historian, this transformation of a people who lost the great Civil War and found themselves."

Reclamation Service

An editorial in The New York Times for October 23 says: "The statement just issued by the Department of the Interior respecting blunders and losses in carrying out the Government's irrigation policy is obviously intended as the official reply to testimony taken in the West by the Public Lands Committee of the Senate. Almost all of the witnesses heard by it were bitterly hostile to Secretary Work....Now the Secretary prints his rejoinder. He is able to show that a great deal of public money has been squandered on projects which, by the use of political pressure, Congress was induced to adopt. Some $26,000,000 has been wasted outright. A great deal of land speculation has gone on in anticipation of Government works of irrigation. Settlers have been misled, and many of them have fallen into hopeless financial difficulties and have left in disgust the land which they had hoped to take up. One fact stated by the Interior Department is both illuminating and disturbing. It is that no less than 6,000 farms on Government reclamation projects have been abandoned. This is what comes of a badly administered plan to offset the growing number of abandoned farms on old settled territory. Secretary Work does not content himself with crying over all this spilt milk. He indicates that the department will have corrective legislation ready to lay before Congress. From the mistakes made wisdom ought to be learned. There is no question of giving up the policy of reclamation. But there is pressing need to safeguard it and to put it on a sounder basis, both financially and agriculturally. It is also intimated that the department has been studying and will soon report a comprehensive plan for dealing with the Colorado River. This is particularly interesting in view of the speech on that subject made by David S. Hill, president of the State University of New Mexico, at the Public Utility Convention in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, on September 16. He reviewed the problem of controlling and utilizing the Colorado River and showed how the agreement among seven States, signed in January, 1923, had unfortunately broken down. It may be in consequence of this that the Department of the Interior has determined to bring forward a plan of its own."

Reforestation and Taxes in Georgia

An editorial in New York Commercial for October 21 says: "The Georgia Forestry Association has drafted and presented to the Georgia Legislature a bill which seems to meet some of the essentials of an equitable plan of taxation for land which is being used for reforestation. The bill is obviously a compromise drawn to meet the objection that such proposals are really subterfuges through which land owners hope to escape taxation, but it is so much better than the present country-wide system of taxing lands devoted to reforestation, that it is commended to other States as a first step in the direction of an ideal tax plan for property devoted to this purpose. The Georgia association's bill provides that upon declaration that land is to be devoted to reforestation the owner may have it assessed at a value which is to remain fixed over the entire period of reforestation. The assessment is levied upon the value of the bare land alone and is not increased from time to time as the growing timber increases in value. At the end of the period of

reforestation and upon the removal of the product, the State receives a fixed percentage of the value of the timber and other products. The association says that it believes the State will receive more from this method of taxation than it would receive if it levied taxes in the usual way. Encouragement of reforestation by the citizen is obviously a duty of the State and the State ought to be willing to meet the man who is willing to give his property over to this purpose at least half way. It ought to go even further than a mere deferment of taxes--it ought to exempt such property from taxation during the period of reforestation and be satisfied with a tax based on market value at the time of the sale of the product."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

1 The Florists Exchange for October 24 says: "The entire horticultural trade, anxiously awaiting Secretary Jardine's decision in the matter of narcissus bulb exclusion, has naturally received with the keenest interest the announcement that a conference on the subject will be held by the Department of Agriculture on November 16. It is interesting in the first place--and encouraging also--to find that the department recognizes in the narcissus situation a legitimate subject for 'reconsideration' and thus acknowledges the validity of the trade's contention that conditions of three or more years ago are not the criteria upon which to-day's regulations should be based. It is gratifying, indeed, that Secretary Jardine has already given to this controversy a greater amount of attention and study than that accorded it by any previous Secretary. His determination that there shall be a full presentation of all facts and evidence both for and against the contemplated restrictions (the evidence accumulated by the department no less than that to be advanced by trade and consuming interests) is a further indication that the conference is to be complete and convincing. And it seems clear that his decision is to be based on the very same evidence and reports that will be brought forward for discussion - neither more nor less. This being the clear intent of the Secretary, it may be assumed that the conference will be conducted by Doctor Jardine himself. In view of the significance of the meeting, of the nature and extent of the interests involved, and of the widespread influence that its conclusions will have, that is not too much to ask or expect. And nothing could do more to put the seal of authority, of fair-mindedness, of careful, judicial, constructive merit on the proceedings than the person of the Secretary in the chair of the moderator."

2 An editorial in The Florida Times-Union for October 24 says: "Through the efforts of the Florida Citrus Exchange, aided by other concerns and individuals, the Federal estimate of the Florida citrus crop has been brought somewhat nearer to actual conditions and prospects. The exchange directly appealed to the congressional delegation in Washington, and it is now announced that the original estimate of nineteen million boxes for the present season has been reduced to 17,500,000. The handlers of citrus fruit in the State estimate the crop at from 14,500,000 to 17,000,000, only one firm, however, having given the high figure quoted. The Florida Citrus Exchange, pleased over the action of the Federal Department of Agriculture in reducing the estimate, declares that it is yet at least a million boxes above the actual figures and predicts serious loss to growers and shippers through this over-estimate. The loss will be at least twenty-five cents a box, according to the exchange experts as it now stands, but this is much better than having the

report of nineteen millions uncorrected. That the statement regarding the new estimate will probably not reach all dealers who have seen the first report, is taken for granted, but the exchange and other shippers will do their best to spread the information regarding a reduction. In the statement sent out by the Florida Citrus Exchange it is shown that the Government estimate of the citrus crop for last season was 22,000,000 and the actual shipments 19,200,000. The over-estimate of nearly three million boxes no doubt cost the growers and shippers a great deal of money. It was, therefore, of particular importance that the new estimate be correct and not far above the actual crop. The difference now found between shippers and the Federal estimate is such as to be regretted, for it will certainly have an effect upon prices. There is reason for the protest, as is seen, and shippers throughout the State will no doubt use their best efforts to correct the seriously incorrect report as first sent out and indicate also to their customers the conservative estimate of men directly concerned in the business of handling the fruit. The citrus crop of Florida is still the leading figure in activities and deserves the fullest consideration."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Oct. 26: Maine bulk Green Mountain potatoes $3.45 to $3.75 in New York City and $2.90 to $3.10 f.o.b. Presque Isle. Best New York Baldwin apples sold at $4.50 to $4.75 per barrel in New York City; $3.75 to $4 f.o.b. Rochester. Pennsylvania Staymans $5 in Philadelphia. Cabbage prices irregular. New York Danish type ranged $15 to $25 bulk per ton in leading city markets and $12 to $14 f.o.b. Rochester. Eastern Shore Virginia Yellows mostly $3.75 to $4.50 per barrel in distributing centers and $3.50 to $3.60 f.o.b. New York and midwestern yellow onions $2 to $2.65 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; $1.80 to $2.20 f.o.b.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.85 for the top; bulk $10 to $11.20; beef steers choice $14 to $16.25; good $10.25 to $15; heifers, good and choice $7 to $12; common and medium $5 to $7.25; cows good and choice $5.50 to $8.75; canners and cutters $3 to $3.85; vealers, medium to choice $9 to $12.50; heavy calves, medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stocker and feeder steers, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $13.50 to $15.50; yearling wethers, medium to choice $9.75 to $13.75; fat ewes, common to choice $4.50 to $8.25; feeding lambs, medium to choice $14 to $16.

Grain prices quoted October 26: No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.71 to $1.72. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.59 1/2; St. Louis $1.64 1/2. No.2 mixed corn Chicago 81¢; No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 75¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 81 1/4¢; St. Louis 81 1/4¢. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 80 3/4¢; Minneapolis 81 3/4¢. No.2 white corn Chicago 81 1/4¢; St. Louis 81 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 39 1/2¢; Minneapolis 34 3/4¢; St. Louis 39 3/4¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 147 points during the week, closing at 19.75¢ per lb. New York December future contracts declined 148 points, closing at 20.20¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads	Average closing price	Oct. 26,	Oct. 24,	Oct. 25, 1924
	20 Industrials	153.60	153.47	102.04
	20 R.R. stocks	105.10	104.62	89.23

(Wall St. Jour., Oct. 27.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 24 Section 1 October 28, 1925.

THE COTTON ESTIMATE An editorial in The New York Times to-day says: "Senator Caraway is a person of unconscious humor. Other people, including all those who really understand the cotton situation, have criticized severely the Government's Crop Reporting Board, but they have based their fault-finding upon the fact that the bureau's September forecast of the cotton yield placed the indication inexcusably low. When the Government, early last month, reduced its estimate to 13,740,000 bales, the forecasts of responsible private experts averaged well above 14,000,000, and some of the usually most accurate private estimators had named a figure as high as 14,900,000. These private estimates were abundantly supported by the figures of cotton actually ginned, which in every fortnightly ginning report since August have greatly exceeded any precedent. When, therefore, the Government's later cotton-crop estimates progressively raised the figures of indicated yield, reaching 15,226,000 bales in the forecast of last Monday, the cotton trade was perfectly aware that a sweeping underestimate was being corrected. Not so Senator Caraway. The Arkansas statesman denounces the Crop Reporting Board, not for underestimating the yield a month ago but for correcting the figures now. The October estimate has 'cost the cotton growers of America not less than a quarter of a billion dollars'; a fact which 'must be apparent to every one.' If the present estimate turns out to be actually or approximately correct, however, we should suppose it must also be apparent to every one, not that the planters had lost potential profits through the October estimate but that they had gained them through the September underestimate with the accompanying September rise of $5 per bale in the price of cotton. Passing over Senator Caraway's arithmetic, the conclusion will probably be reached by unprejudiced observers that the methods of Government cotton-crop reporting ought to be radically reformed. Absolute accuracy in an August or September forecast is too much to ask, when the possible hazards of Autumn weather and Autumn insect pests have still to be allowed for. But that very fact may be used to reinforce the argument against any Government estimate of actual yield until the time of year when the scope of those unpredictable influences is positively known. Compelling the bureau, as Congress has done by law, to publish such early conjectures not even at monthly intervals but every fortnight, has done enough already in the way of confusing and bewildering the cotton trade."

BAKING MERGER RULING The Associated Press to-day states that the Attorney General has ruled that the Federal Trade Commission, under its last appropriation act, has the authority to proceed with its investigation of the proposed baking merger. The bread investigation was asked by Congress and would cover the whole milling and baking industry. The Attorney General said that, while there was no direct allegation that any corporation is violating the Anti-Trust act, the meaning of Congress was so strongly indicated as to make the inquiry legal. It was held by the Attorney General that, although either House of Congress in requesting an investigation failed to make specific charges of law violation, the commission has authority to go ahead if there is evidence that a monopoly exists.

Section 2

British Social Betterment Expenditure

The British National Government is now expending upwards of 150 million pounds a year in various forms of social betterment. Grouping together expenditures of this character by the National Government and local authorities (that is, cities, towns, counties and other minor civil divisions) for the five years which have elapsed since the commercial crisis of 1920-21 they aggregate over a thousand million pounds sterling according to a study just completed by the foreign information service of the Bankers Trust Company of New York. At par of exchange, that is equivalent to five thousand million dollars - an average annual expenditure as great as the total of our pre-war public debt. In the five year period, apart from other current running expenses, nearly 400 million pounds went for education; 240 million pounds for old age and other civil pensions, for health insurance and for unemployment insurance; 220 million pounds for the poor and for relief of the unemployed, in addition to the payments from the unemployment insurance fund and over 100 million pounds for housing, road building and land settlement. In addition to these expenditures 441 million pounds were used for pensions to war veterans and for their industrial rehabilitation.

Cotton and Locarno Agreements

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for October 27 says: "In the past week there were 300,000 bales of cotton exported from the United States. This brings the total from the beginning of the season--August 1 to October 23--to a little more than 2,002,000 bales, against 1,631,000 a year ago. The Locarno agreement gives hope that the present rate of exports will continue. It is too early yet to look for concrete evidence of improvement in trade resulting from the yet unratified Locarno agreements. But these figures of the cotton exports do give an idea of what world peace would mean to us from the purely business point of view. Our exports of cotton a year ago amounted to 8,195,896 bales; the value was over a billion dollars, which was considerably more than 20 per cent of the total exports. About 90 per cent of this cotton went to Europe. Domestic consumption does not take quite half of our cotton crop. The cotton trade, therefore, is largely dependent upon the foreign business. It is not too much to say that the welfare of nearly all of the South depends upon political and economic recovery in Europe. It is not in cotton alone, but in all other lines of trade that the United States is interested....."

German Agricultural Loan

An editorial in The Southern Planter for October 15 says: "It has been well known that the stringent credit conditions that followed the German inflation period left agriculture in Germany starving for capital funds; but the full extent of the distress was hardly appreciated until the recent flotation of a German agricultural loan in this country. The loan was made by the Central Bank for German Agricultural Credit. It amounted to $25,000,000, principal and interest payable in our gold dollars. The bonds sold at $930 for the $1,000 and will pay 7% interest. The bonds are to run for twenty-five years but are redeemable at par after 1936. If they are allowed to run to maturity, they will pay about 7.66%; if they are redeemed at the end of 1936, they will have netted their purchasers about 8½%. Such interest rates would seem to serve as a barrier against Germany as an exporter of agricultural products; and the German farmer will have to pay even more when he borrows. The price named above is the quotation made by the underwriting syndicate, which had to make a profit; and when the money goes to Berlin, it does not go

directly to the farmers. The borrowing bank does not deal with individuals, it lends to banks, which in turn lend to customers. This double handling involves additional costs; and it is possible that methods for perfecting the distribution have not yet been made. That conclusion seems to be inescapable; for, when surprise was expressed at the smallness of the sum requested, the underwriting syndicate announced that the limitation was not placed by foreign bankers but by the borrowing institution which did not think it could, at the present time, handle a larger sum efficiently."

Industrial South

An editorial in New York Commercial for October 24 says: "Florida may become the future playground of the country but other sections of the South are laying claim to superiority as places of work, of industrial development. Rogers Caldwell is one of the South's new leaders, as well as one of its youngest and most successful bankers. To Mr. Caldwell the potentialities of the South are greater than those of any other section of the country. In natural resources suited to industrial development along particular lines Mr. Caldwell believes the South Atlantic States beat the world. All that the South needs, he says, is the vision to see the things that lie plainly in view and the will to turn visions into reality. The work of bringing industry to the South's natural resources has already made great progress. Some of the most important industrial plants in the country are now located in the South. Tennessee, Mr. Caldwell's own State, occupies an enviable position as a leader of the industrial South. It already boasts manufactures ranging from steel and cement to artificial silk and chemicals. Eastman, duPont and other great manufacturing interests which cover the country have plants in the State and new capital is rapidly finding its way there. A recently organized company starts with a $30,000,000 capital."

Latvia Butter Exports

July butter exports from Latvia totaled 2,167,000 pounds, of which 75 per cent was first-grade butter, Germany took about 58 per cent; England about 36 per cent, and the remainder went to other countries, according to a report received in the Department of Commerce from Commercial Attaché C. J. Mayer. During the first half of August about 992,000 pounds were exported, of which 91 per cent went to Germany.

Milling Course

An editorial in The Millers Review for October says: "Two important decisions were made by Pennsylvania millers at their recent convention in Atlantic City--one to hold semi-annual meetings and the other to give all possible support to the project to establish a milling course at Pennsylvania State College....The milling school, providing of course that the project goes through, will be a distinct advantage to all millers. Here all kinds of tests of milling and blending various kinds of flour can be made; where standards can be set and students shown just what certain wheats will do when put to the milling test. It is planned to send students taking the course to various mills where they can talk matters over with millers and make suggestions where possible. It is planned to have a real, commercial mill of twenty-five barrels capacity installed at the college--not a toy affair but the real thing. Someone inquired as to what the school would do with the twenty-five barrels of flour made every day; if it would not be put on the market in competition with commercial mills. The answer to this was that the baking school to be established at the college would take every barrel that the mill made for testing and

baking purposes. Undoubtedly the bakery will supply the school with all of its bread. The new department would give instruction in baking, chemistry and mechanical work, and would cost $300,000 to install. It was stated that Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania was in sympathy with the project."

Motor and Rail Taxation

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for October 26 says: "That motor bus and truck transportation in Massachusetts is 'practically subsidized in its operation as compared with the railroads,' in the words of counsel for the Boston & Maine, is measurably true there and in some other States. The same generalization can no longer be applied to the country as a whole without important qualification. Rapid spread of gasoline taxes and numerous increases in the rate thereof must be considered. Only four States are now left in which motor fuel is tax free. These happen to be the populous States of Illinois, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey, but the other forty-four collected, in the six months ended June 30 last, no less than $60,000,000 at the filling stations. In the same period they applied $39,700,000 to State road work and $14,000,000 to county and local road funds, or by aggregates not much less than they collected from motor owners in fuel taxes alone. In nine of the forty-four States the gas tax was imposed only during two to five months of the six and in ten others the rate of tax was raised during the period. In the first six months of 1924 thirty-six States collected $32,430,000 in this way. It would appear, therefore, that the States are now collecting well above $120,000,000 a year from this source and the levy may be nearing $135,000,000 or $140,000,000. In the whole of 1924 it was under $80,000,000. To this must be added above $200,000,000 in State license taxes, usually relatively heavy in States which do not tax gasoline, and the Federal taxes on automotive vehicles and parts. The Federal taxes, which are not unrelated to cost of highways because of the Federal Government's contribution to State road funds, amounted last year to $141,000,000. Altogether, motor owners are paying not far from $500,000,000 of taxes annually, exclusive of the minor local property taxes. The railroad tax bill this year is upward of $365,000,000. There are places where motor competition with railroads still involves an unfair tax situation and probably nowhere is it yet wholly or even nearly equitable. If users of motor vehicles were paying the whole highway bill instead of half, it would still be true that the motor owner got his right of way for his tax money, whereas the railroad is taxed and in addition must provide and maintain its own right of way. It can be said, at least, that users of gasoline vehicles are being compelled to contribute more and more to the public funds from which the cost of roads is defrayed. Whether this is being done for the sake of justice or merely in response to the officeholder's chronic itch for more public revenues to handle, it would perhaps be impolite to inquire. Whether by intention or not, one of the inequitable conditions under which railroads must compete with highway carriers is in a fair way to be redressed."

Northwest Conditions

A Minneapolis dispatch to the press of October 26 says: "The purchasing power of the Northwest farmer, which has steadily been creeping up since the low point at the peak of the postwar period, is now practically par, according to statistics compiled by the Northwestern National Bank here. 'The exchange values of wheat, corn, potatoes, hogs and butter are all near par, a little above or a little below, when compared with exchange values that prevailed in the five-year period ending July, 1914,' the bank statement says. The Northwest farmer no longer is in

the complaining and pessimistic frame of mind that characterized him a year ago. He has tasted enough of the old-time prosperity to begin buying things he has been forced to deny himself the last two or three years. According to the State agricultural statistician, he is now not only able to buy many of these things, but has the cash to take advantage of bargains."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

October 27: Bulk New York Round White potatoes $3.35 to $3.60 in New York City and sacked stock $3.05 to $3.20 f.o.b. Rochester. Maine sacked Green Mountains $3.65 to $4 in New York City; bulk stock mostly around $3.10 f.o.b. Presque Isle. Virginia yellow sweet potatoes $3.75 to $4.75 per barrel in leading eastern markets and $3.50 to $3.75 f.o.b. Eastern and midwestern yellow onions sold at $2 to $2.50 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers, $1.80 to $2.20 f.o.b. New York Danish type cabbage $18 to $25 bulk per ton in leading markets; $12 to $14 f.o.b. Rochester. Best New York Baldwin apples brought $5.25 to $5.50 per barrel in New York City and $3.75 to $4 f.o.b. Rochester. Eastern Yorks sold mostly at $4 to $4.50 in city markets and $3.75 f.o.b.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.75 for the top, bulk $10 to $11.20; beef steers choice $14 to $16.15; good $10.25 to $14.50; heifers good and choice $7 to $11.75; common and medium $5 to $7; cows, good and choice $5.50 to $8.65; common and medium $3.85 to $5.50; canners and cutters $3 to $3.85; vealers, medium to choice $9 to $13; heavy calves, medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $13.75 to $15.50; yearling wethers, medium to choice $10 to $13; fat ewes, common to choice $4.50 to $8.25; feeding lambs, medium to choice $14 to $16.

Grain prices quoted October 27: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.49 to $1.75. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.70 to $1.73; Kansas City $1.66 to $1.67. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.57 1/2; St. Louis $1.64 to $1.66 1/2; Kansas City $1.58 to $1.68. No.2 mixed corn Chicago 80 1/2¢; Kansas City 81 1/2¢; No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 77 1/2¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 81 1/4¢; Kansas City 83¢; St. Louis 81 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 80 1/2¢; Minneapolis 82 1/2¢. No.2 white corn Chicago 80 1/2¢; St. Louis 80¢; Kansas City 84¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 39 1/2¢; Minneapolis 35¢; St. Louis 39 3/4¢. No.2 white oats Kansas City 39 3/4¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 3 points, closing at 19.72¢ per lb. New York December future contracts declined 2 points, closing at 20.18¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Oct. 27,	Oct. 26,	Oct. 27,1924
20 Industrials	152.92	153.60	101.73
20 R.R. stocks	104.56	105.10	88.71

(Wall St. Jour., Oct. 28.)

- - -

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 25 Section 1 October 29, 1925.

THE PRESIDENT TO ATTEND A.F.B.F. MEETING

A Chicago dispatch to-day states that President Coolidge will open the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago on December 7. At the meeting the President will meet the presidents of each of the 44 State federations, the voting delegates representing the State federations and the board of directors of the American farm bureau association. Mrs. Coolidge, if she goes to Chicago, will be the guest of the home and community committee of the federation.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTS' CONVENTION

Dr. Wyatt W. Randall, chemist of the Maryland State Department of Health, was elected president of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, at the final session of the convention yesterday in Washington. Dr. William H. MacIntire, chemist of the Tennessee experiment station, was chosen vice president, and Dr. W. W. Skinner and Dr. R. W. Balcom were reelected secretary-treasurer and editor, respectively. Dr. Oswell Shreiner and Dr. E. M. Bailey, of Connecticut, were elected members of the executive committee. New names for chemical compounds were decided upon in an attempt to simplify the matter of definitions to be used in the future for various agricultural substances and ingredients. Development of more diversified utilization of crops, and the application of science to the solving of pressing agricultural problems were among the topics of discussion. (Press, Oct. 29.)

FIRESTONE LEASES MEXICO RUBBER LAND

An Akron, Ohio, dispatch to the press to-day states that the leasing of 35,000 acres of rubber plantation land in the province of Tobasco, Mexico, by the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., was announced yesterday by Harvey S. Firestone, president of the company. For several months the company has had forces at work in Tobasco perfecting the organization of the plantation there, Mr. Firestone revealed. Reiterating his contention that "America must produce its own rubber," Mr. Firestone said that in addition to the recent leasing of one million acres in Liberia and opening of the more recent but smaller project in Tobasco, he was considering entering the rubber area in Brazil. Three hundred and fifty acres of the 35,000 acre lease in Tobasco already are producing rubber, Mr. Firestone said.

AMERICAN INDIANS INCREASE

A census of the Indian population of the United States, not including Alaska, announced by the Census Bureau yesterday, shows that the number of Indians is increasing. The total number on June 30, 1925, the census date, was 349,595, a gain of 2,693 since June 30, 1924, and a gain of 18,976 in the last twelve years. Oklahoma, comprising the former Indian Territory, still has the largest Indian population, with 120,163; Arizona, is next, with 43,950. New York's Indian population on June 30 last was 6,135.

Section 2

Beef Industry "I am looking forward to the year 1926 as a more satisfactory year in the beef industry, with fair prices for the producer of cattle, and fair prices and some profit for the packer and the industry in general". This was the opinion expressed by Charles H. Swift, vice president of Swift & Company, who spoke before the twentieth annual convention of the Institute of American Meat Packers, held recently in Chicago. The past year has not been a favorable one for the beef industry, Mr. Swift stated pointing out that, owing to the uncertainty of the market, the packer has tended to pay more for his cattle than he could get for the meat he sold. "To the packer", he continued, "a few cents per hundred pounds of meat means the difference between a profit and a loss, because he does business on such a small margin." The situation in the tanning industry has gradually improved, Mr. Swift stated, in discussing the hide situation, except for a setback during the last few months. "There seems to be good prospects that surplus stocks of heavy leather should be materially reduced during the next few months," he added. "If this does develop, it should favorably affect the tanning industry and the hide market as well." The supply of cattle during the coming year probably will not be excessive, Mr. Swift stated in discussing further the outlook for the beef business. "Inasmuch as the indications are that the supply of pork will be moderate, and in view of the present favorable industrial conditions, it seems safe to say that the outlook is more promising," he continued. "With a plentiful corn crop in view," Mr. Swift stated, "if producers and feeders do not use good judgment, we may again have an over-supply of heavy beef cattle. The way to remedy this, it seems to me, is for the producers to appreciate that requirements have gradually changed and that the demand is now for a reduced proportion of heavy cattle and an increased proportion of young, well-finished, light-weight cattle."

Business Conditions Production in basic industries and factory employment increased in September. Distribution of commodities, both at wholesale and at retail, continued in large volume, and the level of prices remained practically unchanged. The Federal Reserve Board's index of production advanced 2 per cent in September, notwithstanding the suspension of anthracite mining. The volume of output increased considerably in the iron and steel, bitrminous coal, and textile industries, while the decreases which occurred in some other industries were relatively small. Automobile production was larger than in August, but continued to reflect the effects of curtailment incidental to changes in models.

Foot and Mouth Disease in Britain A London dispatch to the press of October 28 says: "The Prince of Wales may have to abandon his fox hunting for this season owing to the spread of foot and mouth disease, and public interest in the epidemic, which is affecting thirteen counties, centers on this feature. The Prince arrived yesterday at Melton-Mowbray, his hunting center, but the district is within the banned area, and several groups of hunters canceled the chase. Hunting is not allowed in the affected areas, because it is believed that horses and dogs crossing cow pastures carry the infection with them. Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture are investigating a theory that mud-covered automobile wheels spread the cattle scourge, especially machines arriving from the Continent, where the disease is prevalent. Since the present epidemic broke out in Buckinghamshire a month ago it has spread to Sussex, Lancashire, Cheshire, Wiltshire, Yorkshire, Dorset, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Rutland, Surrey and Kent. Two thousand head of diseased livestock have been

slaughtered and the movement of animals from one district to another is prohibited. Several cattle shows have been abandoned, including the famous Warminister Fair, in Wiltshire, which has been held each year without intermission for 400 years."

Northwest Conditions

A Minneapolis dispatch to the press of October 26 says: "The purchasing power of the Northwest farmer, which has steadily been creeping up since the low point at the peak of the postwar period, is now practically par, according to statistics compiled by the Northwestern National Bank here. 'The exchange values of wheat, corn, potatoes, hogs and butter are all near par, a little above or a little below, when compared with exchange values that prevailed in the five-year period ending July, 1914,' the bank statement says. The Northwest farmer no longer is in the complaining and pessimistic frame of mind that characterized him a year ago. He has tasted enough of the old-time prosperity to begin buying things he has been forced to deny himself the last two or three years. According to the State agricultural statistician, he is now not only able to buy many of these things, but has the cash to take advantage of bargains."

Population Movement

An editorial in The Rural New-Yorker for October 17 says: "As the census figures are printed it becomes evident that the large cities are not gaining rapidly in population. This is what we have pointed out several times. There are more people in all the Eastern States except possibly Vermont, but they are moving out of the cities in large numbers. This is a movement back to the suburbs, and not back to the farm. These people, or most of them, will hold their city jobs, but will make their homes outside--10 miles or more from town. Cars or bus service give them transportation. They go and come. They are more efficient at the job by reason of this change in life. They are more contented and more prosperous because they own or are on the way to ownership of a piece of land. The cities may find fault, but this change to suburban life is a good thing. It will, in the end, help our farmers, for it is creating a new class hitherto not strong in this country--a class with hands in the city and heart in the country. This class will, slowly perhaps but surely, pick up some of the independence and individuality which were lost in the city. There is nothing like a home and a piece of land to make a man jealous of his rights, and as time goes on these suburbanites will see more and more that their best interests lie in working with farmers politically and socially. The movement will grow."

Spruce Cubes for Butter

A Seattle dispatch to the press of October 26 states that association lumber mills, with the approval of the head of the National Association of Creamery Men, are pressing suggestions to creamery men of the United States to discard the old-fashioned circular butter tub or firkin container for the standard spruce cube. Advantages of economy in space aboard ship and in refrigerator cars by rail in more compact packing is being emphasized.

Woman to Start Whole Wheat Flour Mill

A Baltimore dispatch to the press of October 28 says: "To augment the whole wheat bread campaign, being conducted in Baltimore by the Housewives' Alliance as a health measure, a young woman of Catonsville, Md., one of Baltimore's suburbs, and who is a member of the alliance, is preparing to start a whole wheat flour mill for the purpose of supplying Baltimore's households. It is hoped to have the mill started in the next

three weeks. The idea of a woman-owned and operated flour mill is a novel one, and so far as can be learned, Baltimore will be the first city in the country to have one."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

1 An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for October 28 says: "Cotton market on the 26th was treated to a real sensation when future contracts broke about 100 points and went below 20 cents. This is a reversal of the course early in May, 1922, when spot cotton at New York in its upward course crossed the 20-cent line. The action of the market on Monday was caused by the official estimate of 15,226,000 bales, compared with a 10-year average of 11,233,000. This wide break in prices shows how utterly unprepared the market was for such a forecast. Since the first of September private crop estimates have been materially increasing, but the average was still far below this figure. The official report says improvement in weather since the first of October 'resulted in an increase of 457,000 bales.' The estimate as of October 1 also showed an increase of 828,000 bales in two weeks due to weather improvement, and the report as of September 16 noted an increase of 191,000 bales in the preceding two weeks. If between September 1 and October 18 the crop can change one and a half million bales, the futility of official estimates of production before the middle of October is apparent. Nothing is to be gained by fulminating against the Crop Reporting Board, as some members of Congress and the Senate are already doing. It is a condition and not a theory that confronts the Board and the cotton trade. Cotton is a weather crop and weather conditions are beyond human control. The situation is to be accepted as it is. According to the official estimate, there will be about 1,600,000 bales more than last year, provided there is no killing frost in Oklahoma and West Texas before the cotton in those districts matures. The question, therefore, will be the adjustment of supply and demand. This, however, should not be a very burdensome matter, large as the present crop now looks. We must remember that for the past four years we have been accustomed to much smaller crops, three being of almost famine proportions. The carryover of American cotton at the end of the last season was small. The world is now on the mend and there is persuasive evidence that economic conditions in Europe will greatly improve. Cotton is a fundamental necessity, and when it sells at a reasonable price the consumption should be greatly increased. Our own needs this year will probably take 6,250,000 bales. How much foreign countries will take is, of course, a moot question. We can, however, look back to last season, when under the stimulation of the acceptance of the Dawes plan cotton exports increased 2,400,000 bales over those of the preceding year and reached a total of 8,195,000 bales. With no large supplies on hand at the beginning of this season, and with a hope of better times spreading over the most of Europe, it is a fair inference that foreign consumers will seize this opportunity to replenish their stocks. If they do this, there will be no burdensome surplus, neither will there be any excuse for cotton prices going below a level that is fair for the producer."

2 An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for October 28 says: " This newspaper has never been an advocate of the sort of Government cotton reports that are currently being issued. It has regularly and for a long while past raised its voice in protest against the inaccuracies and the inadequacies of the crop reporting system in vogue. It still maintains the position that all forecasting and all guessing ought to be abandoned by the authorities at Washington at once and for all time. It fully recognizes the difficulties that the legitimate cotton trade has had to

encounter, this year in particular, as a result of erratic and wholly undependable cotton crop reports, and is in full sympathy with those who are at the present time endeavoring to induce the institution of constructive reform in this regard....Candor compels the admission, however, that a good deal that is being said at the present time on this subject will not bear very close analysis. Traders who were again 'surprised' on Monday by the Government estimate of 15,226,000 bales of cotton are making the welkin ring with complaint. The nature of that surprise proves upon study to be rather peculiar, to say the least. Despite more or less official guesses on the part of leading houses in the Street that the Government reports would show a substantially lower prospective output than proved to be the case, many if not the majority of the closest and the most conservative observers in the market have in private conversation for weeks asserted freely that we had made or would make not less than 15,000,000 bales of cotton this year and might make 15,500,000 bales or more. The 'surprise' in the Government report this time appears accordingly to be that the officials at Washington should come so near the truth of the situation as it appears to some of the best students of the matter. That there should be wide-spread doubt, particularly at this time of the year, that the Government report should agree with the rather evident facts of the situation does not, of course, speak well for the record of the Department of Agriculture as crop reporter. But the action of the market on Thursday upon receipt of the Government figures brings forcefully to mind once more the fact that the cotton market in this country is given to the practice of speculating a good deal more on Government reports than on the real crop outlook, and that despite the fact that it is almost impossible to find a trader of any consequence who will not freely assert that he himself has no faith whatever in the statistics of the Department of Agriculture during the growing crop season. The truth of the matter is that there are a good many speculators who make very substantial profits from the erraticisms of the regular monthly forecasts of the Government at Washington. As bad as the Department of Agriculture is as a prophet, and as poor a showing as it has made during the current year in that role, it is hardly fair to lay all the blame for the usual crop uncertainties of this season upon the Government. It is a fact that private estimators, even the best of them and even the average of them all, have not been a great deal more successful this year in foretelling the size of the crop than has the Government. This has been an unusual growing season in most of the belt, and one that has been exceptionally deceptive. Had there been no such thing as Government reports at all the rank and file of the trade would have been forced to revise their ideas about the size of the crop in a major degree at the very end of the season, with all that such a fact implies with respect to futures prices."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Oct. 28: Chicago hog prices closed at $11.35 for the top; bulk $10 to $11; beef steers choice $14 to $16.15; heifers, good and choice $7 to $11.75; common and medium $5 to $7; cows, good and choice $5.50 to $8.65; common and medium $3.85 to $5.50; canners and cutters $3 to $3.85; vealers, medium to choice $9.50 to $13.50; heavy calves, medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $14 to $15.75; yearlingwethers, medium to choice $10 to $13.25; fat ewes, common to choice $4.50 to $8.25; feeding lambs, medium to choice $14 to $16.

Maine sacked Green Mountains $3.85 to $4 per 100 pounds in New York City; bulk stock mostly $3.20 f.o.b. Presque Isle. New York Baldwin apples sold at $5.25 to $5.50 per barrel in New York City and $3.85 to $4 f.o.b. Rochester. Virginia yellow sweet potatoes generally 25¢ to 50¢ lower at $3.75 to $4.75 per barrel in leading markets; $3.65 to $3.75 f.o.b. Tennessee Nancy Halls $1.50 per bushel hamper in Chicago. New York and midwestern yellow varieties ranged mostly $2 to $2.50 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; $1.80 to $2.20 f.o.b.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 49¢; Philadelphia 50 1/2¢; Chicago 48¢; Boston 49¢.

Grain prices quoted October 28: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.49 to $1.76. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.73 to $1.75; Kansas City $1.68 to $1.70. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.60; St. Louis $1.65; Kansas City $1.56 to $1.70. No.2 mixed corn Chicago 82 1/2¢; Kansas City 82 1/2¢; Minneapolis No.3 mixed corn 77 1/2¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 82 3/4¢; St. Louis 82¢; Kansas City 84¢. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 82¢; Minneapolis 83¢. No.2 white corn Chicago 83¢; St. Louis 82¢; Kansas City 85¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 39 1/2¢; Minneapolis 35¢; St. Louis 40¢; No.2 white oats Kansas City 39 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 6 designated spot markets declined 23 points, closing at 19.49¢ per lb.

New York December future contracts declined 12 points, closing at 20.06¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Oct. 28,	Oct. 27,	Oct. 28,1924
20 Industrials	155.25	152.92	102.45
20 R.R. stocks	104.51	104.56	89.03

(Wall St. Jour., Oct. 29.)

- - -

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 26 Section 1 October 30, 1925.

THE PRESIDENT ASKED TO AID IOWA FARMERS

The press to-day says: "A proposed modification of the regulations under which the Federal Farm Loan Board extends credit to farmers was brought to the attention of President Coolidge yesterday in the course of a conference at the White House. The question was taken up by J. G. Mitchell, general counsel for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. Special attention was directed to the need for more liberal terms in the issuance of credit to the corn farmers of Iowa. The President was informed that the Iowa farmers were particularly desirous of getting longer credit terms on warehouse certificates. Mr. Mitchell insisted that the Farm Loan Board's restrictions in this respect bore heavily on the Iowa farmers. The President referred the matter to the Farm Loan Board with the suggestion that Mr. Mitchell's recommendation be given consideration."

CUMMINS URGES RAIL MERGERS

The press to-day states that consolidation of railroads was urged as "absolutely necessary" by Senator Cummins of Iowa, after a visit to the White House yesterday. Otherwise, he said, between 75,000 and 80,000 miles of lines would be abandoned.

NEBRASKA DAIRY PRODUCTS FOR NEW YORK

The New York Times to-day says: "Butter fresh from the churn, eggs fresh from the hennery, and chickens fresh from the barnyard, sufficient to satisfy the hunger of more than 1,000,000 persons for one meal, will arrive in New York late Wednesday night, November 4, in a special train of forty cars. A banner on the train will read: 'This train carries a $500,000 breakfast for New York, ordered from Nebraska, sponsored by the Nebraska Poultry, Butter and Egg Association. Will W. Blackman, Fremont, Nebraska, president.' Executives of the Rock Island and the Erie railroads will accompany the train in addition to the butter and egg men. It is said to be the first time that a solid train of dairy products has been shipped to an eastern market. The train will be run from Omaha to New York via Chicago."

TAX SYSTEM

The Press to-day reports that reconstruction of the entire Federal tax system in the interest of simplicity and efficiency was seriously considered by the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday. Sweeping changes were discussed, among which the following were outstanding: Consolidation of the normal and surtaxes into a single graduated levy. Repeal of the estate and gift taxes so as to eliminate the duplication of Federal and State levies. Creation of a board of experts within the Treasury Department to hasten the settlement of old tax disputes, dating back to 1917, the delay in which already has cost the Government an estimated $500,000,000. It was while Dr. Thomas S. Adams, of Yale University, one of the country's foremost political economists, was addressing the committee that the revision of the tax structure was discussed.

Section 2

Agricultural Conditions

An editorial in The Country Gentleman for November says: "This year's farming operations are practically closed. The harvests have been secured and preliminary estimates place the total farm income for 1925 at approximately ten and a half billion dollars. Each year since the disastrous 1921, when total farm income dropped below seven and a half billion dollars, has recorded an increase, with the curve of income rising steadily, until to-day the farmer's buying power is greater than it was in 1914. Except for the hang-over of old debts the cumulative effect of four years of rising income has again placed agriculture on a fairly prosperous basis....This year the Corn Belt is happy. The crop is one of the best on record in both volume and quality, and hogs command a high price. In the Wheat Belt yields are somewhat less than last year, but the shortage in volume is largely made up by higher prices. This year, for the first time since the break in 1920, all the major farm groups are out from under the cloud of depression....The farmers have learned many profound lessons in business economics during the lean years. They have thought much, and studied much, and learned much through their Nation-wide cooperatives. They know more about how business is conducted and how prices are made. They are through with the fallacy of price fixing. Agricultural America to-day is a far different, a far more educated and competent America than in prewar days. The end of the depression marks also the end of the agrarian political movement. To-day farmers everywhere are thinking and planning how to increase production, how to reduce operating costs, how to improve the fertility of their lands. They are interested in more efficient machinery, better fertilizers, improved livestock and better buildings...."

County Agents

An editorial in Hoard's Dairyman for October 23 says: "A few counties have come to the conclusion that it would be economical to dispense with the services of the county agent and have done so. We wonder if the men responsible for this are sure they are right. If they will calculate the expense of the county agent, it will be found that each farm contributes but a few cents to his support. It would seem that as long as the business men of the cities of the county do not object to this expense, the farmers would be the last ones to favor discontinuing the services of the county agent. Unfortunately the county agent can not give direct help to every farmer in the county; there are too many farmers to permit this kind of service. The most of his efforts are of indirect value to the farmer....If the county agent can, once in five years, institute some new practice in a county, he is a valuable asset to it and returns high dividends on the money invested in him. He is doing work that every thinking farmer knows should be done, and without him, it is neglected. It would be our suggestion, before any other county dispenses with the service of their county agent, that farmers find out just how much each one is paying toward his support and then determine what he has done and what his value has been to their county."

Education in Cooperation

An editorial in The Oregon Farmer for October 15 says: "The department of rural education of the National Education Association in their recent annual convention formulated a new policy looking to the preparation of farm children for intelligent participation in cooperative agriculture. The important facts concerning cooperative marketing which should be taught in the schools are being selected and put into text books and courses of study. It is the business of education in rural communities to

prepare farmers to live intelligent and successful lives; one important phase of this is to prepare them to be intelligent, willing, loyal and courageous members of marketing groups now that the cooperative form of agricultural life is becoming the permanent form in America. To give such training in the public schools is an act of the soundest patriotism because that which increases the strength and prosperity of agriculture increases the strength and prosperity of the whole nation. The whole people will ultimately go up or down with the farmers."

Farmer's Income A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day says: "Optimistic figures about the farmer's income were assailed yesterday before the Interstate Commerce Commission in a consolidated hearing of proposals to give western roads a general five per cent increase. Two expert witnesses for the railroads were cross-examined in an attempt by shippers' counsel to show that they had failed to prove the farmer's net income was on the upgrade. David Friday, Washington economist, formerly president of the Michigan Agricultural College, admitted his testimony did not prove the farmer's net income had increased, but said the testimony of H. W. Moorhouse, Chicago, representing a commercial research bureau, dealt with that. Mr. Moorhouse said some of his charts were based on Government figures, but finally admitted that to get net income he had to depend on special investigation by members of his own bureau, as official figures were not available for certain items to be deducted from gross income."

Farm Land Prices An editorial in Western Breeders Journal for October 15 says: "The Dearborn Independent is printing articles written by a gentleman who believes that the principal reason that the farmers of the United States are hard up is because they have considered their farms as their merchandise instead of their crops. In other words, most of them, according to his theory, have been basing their financial calculations on the possibility of selling their farms at a profit rather than their crops....We think this is far too broad an accusation. There are vast numbers of farmers who regard their farms as their permanent homes, and who work on the principle that they must make their living out of what they are able to produce. There has been far less speculation among farmers than among almost any other class of businessmen. Farmers have suffered from speculation, no doubt, but mostly from speculation emanating from other sources. It is true, however, that the increase in land values a few years ago helped to make the situation more perilous for the farmer. At that time land values had increased, and when agriculture hit the toboggan many farmers were able to borrow money on the basis of high-priced land. The farm land values followed farm product prices downward, and farmers have been trying to pay off mortgages, or the interest on them, secured when farm land was appraised at a very considerably higher figure than now. That's a situation that naturally makes recovery more difficult. The bulk of the farmers of the United States have not consciously speculated in farm land. It is true, nevertheless, that a boom in farm lands is always a danger to sound agricultural economics, and should be guarded against."

France's Automobile and Truck Trade France's foreign trade in passenger automobiles and trucks has shown a notable advance during the first eight months of the current year when compared with the same period in 1924. Cars imported since the beginning of this year numbered 12,218, representing a total value of 101,444,000 francs as against 71,352,000 francs and 8,470,cars in 1924. On the other hand France's exports in motor cars of all categories also

show an advance, according to advices received by the Bankers Trust Company of New York from its French information service, totalling 40,139 motor cars representing a sum of 1,206,988,000 francs, as against 31,191 cars and 876,098,000 francs for the same period in 1924.

Game Refuge Asked — An Auburn,N.Y., dispatch to the press of October 29 states that the Finger Lakes Association composed of Chambers of Commerce and civic organizations in forty communities, October 28 adopted a resolution asking the State Conservation Commissioner to set aside funds to purchase the essential part of the Montezuma marsh for a fish and game refuge.

Meat Packing Industry — Industrial conditions and prospects generally are bright and the coming year ought to be a profitable one for the meat packing industry, according to E. A. Cudahy, jr., vice president of the Cudahy Packing Company, who discussed the merchandising and sale of pork before the twentieth annual convention of the Institute of American Meat Packers, held recently at Chicago. "A big adjustment toward more profitable times has taken place during the last year, particularly in agriculture," Mr. Cudahy stated. "A year or so ago the farmer was paying correspondingly more for what he bought than he received for that which he sold. He was entitled to more favorable terms and he is now receiving them. Naturally this makes the farmer a liberal and willing purchaser of manufactured articles, which makes business good. Export trade during the year has been a disappointment," Mr. Cudahy asserted in discussing the foreign situation. "Germany -- in fact, all Europe -- is showing a greater disposition to import manufactured articles from this country rather than new materials and food products. Agricultural conditions generally in Europe have improved during the last year, and, with favorable weather conditions and a renewal of agricultural pursuits on a prewar scale, I doubt very much whether Europe will want any more of our pork products than she has taken during the past year and possibly will want less. My prediction is," Mr. Cudahy stated at another point, "that hogs will sell during most of this winter at a considerably lower level than they did during the last year. The farmer owns his feed this year at a reasonable price; in fact, corn is selling in the country as low as fifty cents a bushel. More reasonable prices for hogs and products this coming year, in my opinion, will be greater insurance for a reasonable profit for all concerned."

Reclamation — An editorial in The Country Gentleman for November says: "Reclamation of arid lands has proved a financial failure for the Government and a heartbreaking experience for most of those who have tried to make homes on irrigated farms. On only one of the twenty-eight projects scattered over seventeen Western States have the settlers been able to pay all the dues owed to the Government. Here and there may be found individual successes, but in the aggregate the projects are bankrupt and the settlers are crying for relief. The reason for this sad state of affairs is mainly political. Too much pork-barrel politics entered into the location of the projects. Too little heed was taken of economic factors, and too little thought given to the needs of the Nation for more improved farms. The principal idea in the minds of most of the promoters was to get their hands on as much of the Government's money as possible. It was the old rivers-and-harbors grab all over again, with almost every interested senator and representative out to bring back all the pork he could. The

West wants these projects to be successful, naturally, but is it willing to pay the price? Is it willing to submit every dream of development to the acid test of economic necessity and probable safe earnings--to nail the head forever in the old pork barrel?...Secretary Work and his advisers have advised going slow with new projects and submitting them first to careful analysis of possibilities. They want to see business methods applied to reclamation. But this program does not please the Intermountain country. It is too slow. They want as Secretary of the Interior a man who sympathizes with their aspirations for development--not a careful business man who asks first if it will pay....."

Trade with Latin America

Trade of the United States with our neighbors at the South, Latin America, continues to show gains despite the suggestion that the pre-war movements of manufactures from Europe to that area might be renewed. Our exports to South America alone in the first eight months of 1925, says the Trade Record of the National City Bank of New York, were 264 million dollars, against 201 millions in the corresponding months of the preceding year, those to Central America, 48 millions against 42 millions; to Mexico, 98 millions against 86 millions; Cuba and Santo Domingo, 143 millions against 140 millions in the eight months of 1924. To every section of the area frequently designated as Latin America, the exports show an increase. This increase in their purchases from us is reciprocated by a corresponding increase in our imports from them, for the imports from South America in the period in question are 344 million dollars ag against 307 millions in the same months of the preceding year; Central America, 31 millions against 28 millions; Mexico, 127 millions against 113 millions in the corresponding months of last year.

Wool Market

A Boston dispatch to-day says: "From the developments of the week in the wool market the dealers conclude that good business is sure to come and prices might profitably remain firm even if they are a little too high to stimulate further immediate activity. The outlook on the good market gives courage....Much Australian wool has arrived in Boston during the week which was purchased when the market was lower, but it is believed that most of it is going directly to the manufacturers...."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in American Forests for November says: "That Federal leadership in cooperative forest activities now falls short of the mark was ably pointed out at the hearing before the Director of the Budget. The cause, of course, is the meager appropriations with which the Government is attempting to put the new forestry act into operation. The two most important features of this act--fire prevention and forest reconstruction in the East--are not being adequately provided for, and in the picture of 92,000 forest fires last year, with 28,000,000 acres burned over, the Government is not seen at its best nor as an adequate leader in building up a great Nation-wide protective force. There is no lack of ability on the part of the Forest Service, but rather the lack comes from inability to face the unquestioned financial needs of Federal leadership and forest fire prevention. There is no economy in letting our forests burn up when by a small expenditure to-day the high cost of replacing them tomorrow can be saved....It is to be profoundly hoped that when the Bureau of the Budget and the Forest Service meet with a view toward its expenditures for the coming year, the forests of America will be rightly balanced with roads, harbors, battle ships, public buildings and other important items, and that they will be given their full due in the new budget. Anything short of this is buying tax reduction at too great a cost."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Oct. 29: Chicago hog prices closed at $11.50; bulk $10.25 to $11.15; beef steers choice $14 to $16; heifers, good and choice $7 to $11.75; medium and common $5 to $7; cows, good and choice $5.50 to $8.65; canners and cutters $3 to $3.85; vealers, medium to choice $9.50 to $13.75; heavy calves medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $14 to $15.75; yearling wethers, medium to choice $10.25 to $13.50; fat ewes, common to choice $4.50 to $8.25; feeding lambs medium to choice $14 to $16.

Maine sacked Green Mountains potatoes mostly $4 to $4.05 in New York and Boston; bulk stock $3.30 to $3.40 f.o.b. Presque Isle. Northern sacked Round Whites $3.50 to $3.60 on the Chicago carlot market; $3.15 to $3.40 f.o.b. Best Virginia yellow varieties ranged $3.50 to $4.50 per barrel in leading eastern markets; $3.75 to $3.85 f.o.b. New York Danish type cabbage advanced $2 to $7 per ton, closing at $20 to $25 in city wholesale markets and $13 to $15 f.o.b. Rochester. Best New York Baldwin apples sold at $5 to $5.50 per barrel in New York City and $3.75 to $4 f.o.b. Rochester.

Grain prices quoted October 29: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.47 to $1.74. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.73 to $1.75; Kansas City $1.68. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.57; St. Louis $1.64 to $1.65; Kansas City $1.61. No.2 mixed corn Chicago 84¢; Kansas City 86¢; No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 79 1/2¢; No.2 yellow corn Chicago 84 1/2¢; St. Louis 83 1/2¢; Kansas City 85 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 83 3/4¢; Minneapolis 85 3/4¢. No.2 white corn Chicago 84 1/2¢; St. Louis 84¢; Kansas City 84 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 39 1/2¢; Minneapolis 35¢; St. Louis 40¢. No.2 white oats Kansas City 39 3/4¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 50¢; Philadelphia 51 1/2¢; Boston 49 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated markets declined 29 points closing at 19.31¢ per lb. New York December future contracts declined 34 points closing at 19.72¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Oct. 29,	Oct. 23,	Oct. 29, 1924
20 Industrials	154.88	155.25	102.41
20 R.R. stocks	104.14	104.51	88.86

(Wall St. Jour., Oct. 30.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 27 Section 1 October 31, 1925.

THE PRESIDENT TO RECOMMEND FARM LEGISLATION

Robert Barry, writing in the Philadelphia Ledger to-day, says: "Reports of revived discontent among the farmers of the Middle West and West have reached the White House in such volume as to cause the President yesterday to authorize the statement that he would have specific recommendations for legislation when Congress meets in December. The President is not prepared at this time to outline his proposals for legislative action, but there is every reason to believe he will renew his request for affirmative action on the suggestions of his Agricultural Commission. Mr.Coolidge holds Congress responsible for the failure to embody the commission's program into legislation, and contends that farm lobbies which presume to have the farmers' interest close at heart have hurt and not helped the agricultural situation. The President is hopeful that there will be no material revival of the agrarian radicalism of the post-war adjustment period and sees no occasion for any such price depression. He does believe that helpful legislation will be impossible so long as the farm lobbies attempt to block every proposal except one which they have sponsored....."

GAS TAX AIDS HAVANA ROADS

A Havana dispatch to the press of October 31 states that since the inauguration of the tax on gasoline five months ago the West Indian Oil and Refining Company has paid the Government $425,609. This announcement was made October 30. The tax revenues will be used in building roads.

WORD RAYON APPROVED

The word rayon has been approved by the Federal Trade Commission as properly designating artificial silk products, the chief ingredient of which is cellulose. The action, announced October 30, recognized adoption of the word by the trade, including many associations of manufacturers, and its general acceptance by the public to mean artificial silk or a substitute for silk. The commission, in a number of cases, involving the misbranding of textiles that have artificially been given the appearance of silk, has consistently held that such products should be branded "artificial silk," or with other words that correctly describe the materials composing them. (Press,Oct.31)

CANADA FOR PROTECTION

An editorial in to-day's Washington Post says: "The elections in Canada Thursday appear to have brought about results of twofold significance to the voters of the provinces, and of unusual interest and importance to the people of the United States. The election returns, although not yet finally ascertained, show a repudiation of the economic policy of the existing Government and a distinct trend of public opinion toward an adequate protective tariff policy as a cure for the economic ills from which Canada is suffering. The liberal party, proponent of low tariffs, has been completely routed and driven from power..The agriculturists of the wheat growing regions of the West revolted on the tariff issue ten years ago, and out of that situation the progressive party in Canada had its origin. These farmers demanded free trade in everything they have to buy, construction of more branch lines of the Government railways, lower freight rates and lower taxes...."

Section 2

Agricultural Situation

An editorial in The American Review of Reviews for November says: "Most important of all factors in the making of our present 'good times' is the changed situation of the farmers' lot. The relationship of one field of industry to another, the evenness of distribution of the prosperity, have as much to do with true good times as absolute records of production and profits. Until this year, no amount of magnificent prosperity in the motor-car and other special industries could make up for the fact that the farmers lagged behind, because of abnormally low prices for agricultural products, and were having a hard time to pay their debts and purchase a normal supply of the products of other industries than their own. The great rise in agricultural prices during the past year has set this relationship in balance again. It has done this, too, without any machine-made help through new laws designed to take the place of economic principles. That this same law of supply and demand which has so recently come to the rescue of our economic situation here will continue to function indefinitely in aiding the farmer is interestingly suggested by Dr. David Friday. The matter is of the more moment because there will undoubtedly be attempts in the new Congress to make legislation take the place of economic law in molding the destinies of the farmers, by those who believe the present better situation has come as a matter of weather and luck, rather than from inexorable economic forces."

Cotton

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for October 30 says: "Fighting line for cotton at present seems to be established between 19 and 20 cents. The contending forces may surge back and forth above and below this line somewhat, but the chances are more in favor of a slight upward movement....With the probable maximum supply established, the main interest of the market should be centered around demand. The South reports a strong buying demand for the better grades of cotton. If we take the Hester figures of world carryover as authority, then the total world supply of American lint cotton is 17,940,000 bales. This is 3,200,000 bales more than last year, but consumption last season, in spite of the British short time, was 3,000,000 bales larger than the preceding year. British imports thus far have been about the same as a year ago, but Lancaster is alive to the prospects of cheaper cotton. Japan and continental Europe have taken about 400,000 bales more than last year. World spinners' takings are now about half a million bales above those of last season. These facts indicate an active foreign demand for our cotton. What the world consumption of American cotton will be is little more than a guess, but assuming that it will be 14,500,000 bales, there would be 3,400,000 bales surplus in all the world at the end of the season. Under the changed conditions this would be relatively no larger than the 2,715,000 bales of last year. Adjustment to these conditions should strengthen the 20-cent line."

Florida

Roger W. Babson is the author of an extensive article on "Florida's Future," in The American Review of Reviews for November. In this he says: "The Florida of to-day is fundamentally just the same as the Florida of yesterday or of fifty years ago, so far as the climate is concerned. Climate is Florida's greatest natural resource. Its climate is no different for the present generation than for previous generations. Years ago Florida was a potential producer of citrus fruits, vegetables, and the other things which make up its main output now. The Florida boom can not be traced to any new and strange situation which has arisen in Florida, but rather can be traced to the change which has taken place in general

business since the depression of 1921. Whether the boom goes on for year after year, or collapses during the next period of depression, essentially Florida will be just as sound after the boom is over as it was years ago and is now. Florida climate will be just as alluring and healthful. Florida fruits and vegetables will be just as much in demand. I can hardly find words strong enough to express adequately this fact, that the Florida boom is primarily not due to local conditions but rather to national conditions. The boom will ultimately die down, but Florida will live on. Besides this underlying cause--namely, the present period of national prosperity--Florida's expansion has been expedited by the following factors: In the first place, we have the prodigious growth of the automobile industry and the corresponding creation of good roads. Combined with this there has been an improvement in the farmer's economic position. From a low point in 1921 the value of crops has been steadily increasing. The farmer's purchasing power (that is, the ratio of crop prices to general prices) has been rising. As the farmer's position has improved, he has been able to take advantage of automobiles and good roads. He has been able to get away from his farm in the winter and go to Florida. This is something entirely new in the farmer's life. Previous to recent years the farmer practically never had a real vacation, because he was tied down by heavy duties in summer and by a light pocketbook in winter. But the farmers have learned that they can pack their belongings into an automobile . . and go to Florida for the winter, to enjoy a remarkable vacation at relatively slight expense. Another factor has also come into play. The farmer not only has had a real vacation for the first time in his life, but he has made money. Many northern farmers bought small places in Florida and have been able to sell them at an excellent profit. Automobiles, good roads, a fair measure of farm prosperity, and the possibility of making a vacation self-supporting--these influences encourage a winter migration southward. This migration, although still chiefly a movement of the farming population, is including large numbers of people from other occupations, notably the building trades. In due time, the speculative opportunities will disappear. But the automobile is here to stay; good roads will remain; and I believe that millions of people will continue to demand a winter vacation."

Florida Freight Embargo A Jacksonville dispatch to the press of October 30 states that the inbound freight embargo now in effect at the larger points in the State will immediately become effective throughout Florida. It was planned to issue the embargo immediately, M. J. Gormley, chairman of the car service division of the American Railway Association declared. The general embargo will not apply to livestock, perishables, petroleum and its products, foodstuffs, crate or wrapping materials used in the handling of fruits and vegetables, fertilizer nor to fertilizer materials, the statement said. Primary importance to Florida of the perishable fruit and vegetable movements is the motive in placing the general embargo, it was pointed out.

Florida Products L. M. Rhodes, State marketing commissioner of Florida, is the author of an article on "The Market for Florida's Products" in The American Review of Reviews for November. He says in part: "Florida's annual production of fruits, nuts, vegetables, field crops, pork, bacon, beef, veal, mutton, lamb, dairy and poultry products, wool and honey is worth to the State not less than $160,000,000. All of this does not go to the producers, of course. The cost of production, picking, hauling, packing, loading, advertising, selling, and transportation inside the State goes

to others; but as a total revenue to the State it amounts to $160,000,000. From 95,000 to 105,000 carloads of perishable products are shipped annually from Florida to every part of the United States and Canada. This production will no doubt greatly increase within the next 10 years. We are often asked, 'Can the farmers of Florida market their products in the future, and what facilities will they have for locating profitable markets?' At present the annual importations into Florida of meats, lard, dairy and poultry products, grains, hay, feeds, bread, canned goods, fruits, and vegetables amount in value to $100,623,070. As most of these can be produced in the State there is a home market at present for $100,000,000 worth of farm products. This home market demand will continue, for Florida doubles her population every year from November until April; and at the rate it is growing now no one can doubt that Florida's permanent population will be doubled in five years and that the State will be entertaining 2,500,000 tourists in 1930. That will mean an increased demand in the home market for at least $160,000,000 worth more of these products to equal what we are now importing and consuming of our own production or the demands of Florida's home market in 1930 will exceed $300,000,000. In addition to an ever-increasing home market demand Florida has the following marketing advantages and facilities for its producers of the future: Its heaviest offerings of fresh fruit and vegetables are during the winter and early spring months, when competition is the weakest and the demand is the strongest; its proximity to great consuming centers in the United States and Canada, it being much nearer to the big markets than its strongest competitors; its wonderful facilities for shipping by water; its accessibility to foreign markets, being able to adjust its supply of products to numerous markets by growing a great variety of marketable crops; its facilities for marketing are good now and will be as good as any that exist on earth. The influx of progressive producers and business men from every State in the Union, that is going on now, will help to improve local methods; and the native farmers are themselves making wonderful progress in marketing. Both fruit and vegetable growers of Florida have access to efficient growing cooperative organizations, managed and directed by the most capable and skillful marketing men available. These organizations are handling efficiently a large proportion of the fruits and vegetables now, and they will expand in membership and in volume of business in proportion to the need for their existence and the satisfactory service they render."

Oil Supply End Predicted

A London dispatch to the press of October 30 says: "The oil supply of the United States will be exhausted in twenty-five years and the entire world's oil supply in from 80 to 100 years, according to Sir Richard Redmayne, formerly chief inspector of British mines. He made this statement while giving evidence before the Royal Commission of the Coal Industry at London yesterday. Sir Richard remarked, incidentally, that one authority declared the American supply of oil would be exhausted in twelve years. Referring to the coal situation, he said the world output of coal is increasing, but that the coal output of Britain and the British Empire was decreasing. America's capacity is far beyond her actual production, he said, in view of which she must try to capture the British export trade."

South Wants European Farm Labor

A Birmingham, Ala., dispatch to the press of October 30 states that resolutions asking Congress to amend the immigration laws so that large groups of farmers may be brought from Europe to till the soil were unanimously adopted at the conference of southern Governors at Birmingham, October 29. Support of the southern Governors for flood control and irrigation along the Mississippi River, advancement and better control of hydro-electric facilities and for drainage, navigation and irrigation work on all southern streams also was pledged.

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Oct. 30: Maine sacked Green Mountain potatoes mostly $4 to $4.15 in eastern markets; bulk stock $3.60 to $3.65 f.o.b. Presque Isle. Northern sacked Round Whites $3.85 to $4 carlot sales in Chicago; $3.35 to $3.75 f.o.b. Virginia yellow sweet potatoes $3.50 to $4.50 per barrel in eastern city markets and $3.75 to $3.85 f.o.b. New Jersey stock $1.50 to $2.25 per bushel hamper. Best New York and midwestern yellow onions ranged $2.25 to $2.60 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; $2 to $2.25 f.o.b. shipping points. New York Baldwin apples $5 to $5.50 per barrel in New York City; mostly $4 f.o.b. Rochester.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.75 for the top; bulk $10.50 to $11.30; beef steers choice $13.75 to $16; good $10 to $14.25; heifers, good and choice $7 to $11.75; cows, good and choice $5.50 to $8.65; canners and cutters $3 to $3.85; vealers, medium to choice $9.50 to $13.75; heavy calves medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs $13.75 to $15.75; yearling wethers, medium to choice $10 to $13.50; fat ewes, common to choice $4.50 to $8.25; feeding lambs, medium to choice $14 to $16.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 50¢; Philadelphia 51 1/2¢; Boston 50¢.

Grain prices quoted October 30: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.45 to $1.70. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.73 to $1.75; Kansas City $1.66. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.56 1/4; St. Louis $1.64; Kansas City $1.59 to $1.62. No.2 mixed corn Chicago 84 1/4¢; St. Louis 82 1/2¢; Kansas City 82 to 84¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 84 1/2¢; St. Louis 83 1/2¢; Kansas City 85 to 86¢; No.3 yellow corn Chicago 83 1/2 to 83 3/4¢; Minneapolis 84 1/2 to 88 1/2¢. No.3 white corn Chicago 83 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 39 1/4 to 39 1/2¢; Minneapolis 34 3/4 to 35¢; St. Louis 40 to 40 1/2¢; No.2 white oats Kansas City 39 1/2 to 40 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 54 points, closing at 18.77¢ per lb. New York December future contracts declined 47 points, closing at 19.25¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Oct. 30,	Oct. 29,	Oct. 30, 1924
20 Industrials	155.65	154.88	103.00
20 R.R. stocks	104.79	104.14	88.90

(Wall St. Jour., Oct. 31.)

- - -

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XIX, No. 28 Section 1 November 2, 1925.

FARM RELIEF LEGISLATION

A representative group of spokesmen of farm organizations has agreed upon the terms of a new cooperative marketing bill, which will be presented to Congress at the December session with the indorsement of the administration. The measure will be the major item on President Coolidge's program of relief for agriculture. Its approval by Secretary Jardine means that no further consideration will be given by the administration to the marketing proposals of the Coolidge Farm Commission that failed of action in the last Congress. The new bill is the product of a conference at Washington last week, in which about twenty of the larger farm cooperative organizations of the United States, as well as the Department of Agriculture, were represented. It reconciles, in large measure, conflicting views as to just what steps the Federal Government should take in encouraging cooperation by farmers in the marketing of their goods. (Press, Nov. 1.)

BAKING MERGER

The press of November 1 says: "Investigation by the Federal Trade Commission has disclosed no basis for action at this time in connection with a reported $400,000,000 merger of the General Baking Co., Ward Baking Corporation, Continental Baking Corporation and possibly the Southern Baking Co. Upon the advice of M. F. Hudson, its chief examiner, who conducted the investigation after press accounts had mentioned that such a merger was contemplated, the commission, however, is holding the matter open for any further developments."

BRITISH SPINNERS AND COTTON REPORTS

A London dispatch to the press to-day says: "The general attitude of British cotton spinners is to hold off for lower prices. This view is not being disturbed by reports of impending big orders for manufacturers of yarn or by fears of frost damage. The latest American bureau report gave the market a shock owing to its unexpectedly favorable character, but it has undoubtedly hardened the attitude of spinners. It is now considered certain that the American crop will be well above the probable consumption. Although so large a crop cannot fail to stimulate the world's demand for cotton textiles, the large available supply should keep prices at a remunerative level for some time ahead. Strong criticism is being directed here by cotton trade experts against 'crop guessing' by the American bureau. The service now being performed by the bureau in its estimates of indicated yield is considered to have become utterly useless, and to be detrimental to the cotton trade."

RUBBER EXPORT

A London dispatch to the press of November 1 states that another 10 per cent of standard production was added October 31 by the Stevenson Committee to the quantity of rubber which may be exported from Ceylon, the Straits Settlements and the Malay States. The next alteration is expected in February, when in all probability permission for export on the same terms of another 10 per cent will be granted, bringing the total figure up to 95 per cent of the standard production.

Section 2

Australian Wool

A Melbourne dispatch to the press of October 31 states that owing to the improved demand for wool, the offerings from all centers during November and December will be increased 10 per cent. There was keen competition at the wool sales in Albury October 30. Of the 6,000 bales offered, all were sold.

Farmers and Immigration

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for October 31 says: "One of the first indications that the rank and file of the people in Southern States where anti-immigration feeling has usually been rather strong are beginning to get a little better view of the current situation appears in the resolutions recently drawn up and adopted by a conference of Southern Governors calling upon Congress to admit European workers for Southern fields. Labor for cotton picking and other farm work has not been any too abundant this year in the South generally and in some of the central Southern States the situation has, during the past month or so, reached a more or less acute stage. Moreover it is becoming more and more the belief of a good many that cotton raising under boll weevil conditions requires a different class of labor from that which has been the dependence of planters for a century. However much abstract sympathy the Southern farmer may feel for organized labor in general he is apparently awaking slowly to the fact that after all he is fully as much a capitalist and entrepreneur as he is laborer, and that as such he can not afford to join hands with the more extreme and monopolistically inclined union officials....."

Florida

Barron Collier is the author of an article entitled "Florida: Land of Promise," in The American Review of Reviews for November. In this he says: "When a man who started to work intensively at fifteen years of age reaches forty, his mind instinctively turns to construction and constructive development. In my fortieth year I made my first venture in Florida with the purchase of the most beautiful island on the Gulf Coast; and to-day Useppa Island is known far and wide. When you get below the great frost belt of Florida you reach the heart of that balmy climate that has, in addition, the tonic properties of rare old wine. Frankly, I was fascinated with Florida and swept off my feet by what I saw and felt. It was a wonder land with a magic climate, set in a frame of golden sunshine. I could not be unconscious of these natural advantages, and the practical side of my nature pointed out the extraordinary opportunity in soil which the luxuriant growth on every hand emphasized. I saw sugar cane which was planted forty-four years before that date automatically reproducing itself into a profitable crop at each ensuing year. I saw grapefruit, oranges, tangerines, lemons, alligator pears, and all the luscious fruits of which the West Indies boast, lying in profusion at my feet. I realized that a few sugar mills, located in what appeared to be the 'sugar bowl' of the American continent, would find as fitting a location in Florida as the cotton mill which, making its first attempt in New England, by inevitable law had found its proper setting in the cotton fields of the Carolinas and Georgia. Here these cotton mills paid handsomely. The inevitable success of the cotton industry in the Carolinas is one of the unanswerable reasons why the sugar mills, canning factories, and various elements of fruit and fish packing developments must inevitably find their most successful

goal in the opportunity which Florida presents."

Florida Transportation Needs

Richard H. Edmonds, editor of Manufacturers Record, writes on "Meeting Transportation Needs in Florida," in The American Review of Reviews for November. He says in part: "The resources and charms of Florida have not been overdrawn; they are real and tangible; they will make a great commonwealth of vast industrial, agricultural and commercial power. No one need fear for the future of the State, though the froth that is now in evidence may serve to mislead some and provoke hostile criticisms from the disappointed ones; for that many will be disappointed is inevitable. We shall probably see a repetition of the California gold craze rush of 1849, with its Nation-wide movement to that coast, magnified in proportion as the population and wealth of the country of to-day exceeds that of 1849. There were many disappointed ones then, many who returned to their old homes in disgust because they had failed to strike 'pay dirt'; but the California of to-day with its great population and vast wealth is the harvest from the seed sown in 1849. Florida is now sowing its seed for a great harvest in the future."

Foreign Competition

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for October 31 says: "A leading authority in the meat packing industry recently expressed the belief that the time was coming, and not in the too distant future, when the United States must meet a competition the like of which business here has not known in the past. He was naturally not willing to hazard a guess as to when that time will arrive, but when Europe actually once more attains a position of productivity and begins to work out of her position of indebtedness the neutral markets of the world and even our domestic markets are not likely to be particularly comfortable places for our salesmen, according to this student of current affairs, unless, indeed, we see to it that we are fully prepared when that time arrives. ... In these circumstances would it not be wise for us to be using a little foresight in preparation for the competition that is all but certainly coming at one time or another?"

Packer Merger

An editorial in The Southern Agriculturist for November 1 says: "The Secretary of Agriculture has done well, to our thinking, in dismissing the complaint of the Government against the merger of the Armour and the Morris packing interests. We are hoping yet to see the packers freed from the restrictions imposed upon them by the 'consent decree' against the handling of other than meat products and against the retailing of their products. This paper favored Government regulation of the packing and related industries. It favored this because it believed those industries had reached the stage where they were, in reality, if not in form or by nature, public service utilities, and because it believed it well for the Government to stand ready to protect consumers from the possible misuse and abuse of the great powers these industries had come to possess. But with this regulation provided, we can not see why the packers should not be left free to try their hand at the development of a more economical system of distribution, or why any one of them should not be allowed to expand to the full extent of its business opportunities. Government regulation of business, in our opinion, is not to be desired except as it may be necessary to give the comparatively helpless individual an equal showing with the great organization of capital. And it is

never to be desired when it is used to prevent business from developing more efficient methods or rendering larger services."

Rural Press Influence

"Who Runs the Country? The Growing Influence of the Rural Press," are the title and sub-title of an article by John H. Perry, president of the American Press Association, in The American Review of Reviews for November. Mr. Perry says: "The next time the Inquiring Reporter stops you on the corner and asks: 'Who really runs the United States?' do not answer--according to your temperament and prejudices--'The Interests,' 'The Politicians,' or 'God know!' The correct answer is: The country press. The force that controls this country of ours, in the long run, is the rural editor, in his capacity as spokesman for sixty million Americans who live and earn their living on the farms and in the villages and towns of 5,000 population or less. It is not necessary to take the writer's word for it. Ask any politician whom you know well to tell you the truth. Ask any representative of 'the interests'--big city bankers, for instance, or presidents of great railroad or industrial corporations. ....Big Business knows that the country, not the cities, is the great market. Thirteen billion dollars is a lot of money. It is more than half what the Great War cost us, including our loans to the Allies. But that is what the farmers of the United States spend every year for things, which have nothing to do with the cost of raising their crops--according to William H. Woodin, who qualifies as a Big Business man by being president of the American Car and Foundry Company. That is about $2,000 a year for each of the six and one-half million farm families. I have been trying to suggest the economic and social background against which the country editor performs his job of running the United States of America. He has a majority of the people and a majority of the wealth of the country behind him. Is it to be wondered that politicians listen when he has something to say? .... Looking back over the last quarter-century, one may notice several definite tendencies among country newspapers. There is an inclination toward consolidation--not a cooperative movement, but rather one where the stronger paper absorbs the weaker. There is likewise a tendency to establish new small-town newspapers. At the beginning of 1925, for example, there were 97 more weekly papers listed than in the previous year, 39 of them where there was no newspaper before. ...."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in Providence (R.I.) Journal for October 28 says: "Senator Caraway of Arkansas is thoroughly aroused over the effect of the latest Government cotton report on the welfare of the planters and the general public. He is quoted as saying that he will introduce a bill in Congress to prohibit trading in crop futures, even going to the extreme of abolishing the Department of Agriculture if necessary. As has been pointed out many times periodic forecasts on growing crops are likely to vary greatly with each announcement. Climatic conditions, storms, sunshine, temperature, pests and other factors influence a growing crop. It is beyond human power to make an accurate forecast of the yield of any crop. What the Department of Agriculture is trying to do is to give the public an idea of the approximate amount of returns in cotton, or wheat, or corn, or any other agricultural commodity. It is supposed to be of value primarily to the farmers themselves. The useful-

ness of such uncertain advance information has been frequently questione with very good reason. But before condemning the Department of Agriculture, as Senator Caraway does, it is well to get clearly in mind some essential facts. The Government did not initiate the idea of having crop forecasts. It was introduced by private agencies which still continue the practice, achieving about the same results that the Government does--always more or less inaccurate. The Government entered the crop reporting field because it is obviously in a position to give more complete information as to exact conditions than most private agencies. If such reports are regarded as of substantial value by considerable numbers of people who want to use them for legitimate purposes, no harm can result for anyone except the person who voluntarily gambles on the reports. Senator Caraway fails to distinguish between the reports themselves, on the one hand, and the use that is made of them, on the other hand. The paper cotton which the speculators buy and sell is not the cotton which a woman shopper in a drygoods store purchases. The price which a non-speculating Southern planter gets is not the price determined by gambling on the cotton exchange but the price that is fixed by the inevitable law of supply and demand. If a planter who actually has cotton to sell, unlike an exchange speculator who generally only hasa contract to sell, takes a gambler's chance on the basis of a Government report and sells his crop before it matures, he knows he is speculating. There is no deception about it. He simply prefers to accept a speculative price rather than the economic price, which may be higher or lower than the speculative price. Senator Caraway deplores gambling in crop futures. But we must remember that if the Government should cease to publish its reports, the gamblers would still have the private reports on which to base their speculation."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products For the week ended October 31. Week end trading at Chicago showed the following price changes compared with a week earlier. Top hogs were 25¢ higher, general trade steady to higher, underweights and packing grades advancing most. Beef steers 25 to 50¢ lower stockers and feeders fully 15 to 25¢ lower, fat cows and heifers mostly 15 to 25¢ lower, canners, cutters and bologna bulls steady, vealers, 15 to 25¢ higher. Chicago quotation as of October 31 follow: Hogs, top $11.75; bulk $10.40; to $11.30; Beef steers (1100-1500#) choice $13.75 to $16; heifers, good and choice $7 to $11.75; medium and common $5 to $7; cows, good and choice $5.50 to $8.65; medium to common $3.85 to $5.50; canners and cutters $3 to $3.85; vealers, medium to choice $9.50 to $13.75; heavy calves, medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; Fat lambs (light and handyweight), medium to choice $13.75 to $15.75; yearling wethers, medium to choice $10 to $13.50; fat ewes, common to choice $4.50 to $8.25; feeding lambs, medium to choice $14 to $16.

Grain market irregular. Wheat up but feed grains easier. Wheat futures about two cents higher than week ago. Desirable milling wheat in good demand but easier at close. Very little wheat being exported since United States prices are above an export basis. Corn futures practically unchanged but cash corn higher on more active feeding demand Oats fractionally lower.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 243 points, closing at 18.42¢ per lb. New York December future contracts declined 241 points, closing at 18.86¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 29 Section 1 November 3, 1925

AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION

An editorial in The Washington Post to-day says: "It is predicted by congressional leaders that the incoming Congress will receive a cooperative marketing bill, drafted by Secretary Jardine with the advice of cooperative representatives throughout the country. The bill, it is said, will call for an appropriation of $250,000 for the purpose of creating 'a division of cooperative marketing in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to foster cooperative marketing of the major agricultural products.'...It is the fostering of the marketing activities of the farmers' cooperatives that is sought as a partial relief to the agricultural situation throughout the country by Secretary Jardine. Farmers, especially those throughout the corn-belt West, are distressed this year, as in former years, over the prices prevailing for their products. The value of their dollar as represented by the price of their products is low in comparison with the cost of the necessaries and comforts of life which they must buy. Cooperative leaders in some quarters, however, are opposed to Secretary Jardine's plan of relief. It is their belief that once the division of cooperative marketing is established it will mean Federal supervision, something that they do not desire. Opposition has been voiced also to the advisory commission proposed to be created by the bill, those opposing it saying that they fear this body might exceed its authority. Farm relief has been urgent these many years. Whether it can be obtained by legislation is another question. Many agricultural economists deny that it can. They hold that supply and demand alone can restore the equilibrium sought by the farmer between the things that he has to sell and those that he has to buy. But it would seem at first blush, aside from the exigencies of politics by and large, that a division of cooperative marketing as proposed would be of great benefit to the cooperative associations of the country. It would serve as a clearing house for the activities of the cooperatives and, by placing them in possession of facts, it would enable them to distribute their products at the best time and place."

SOVIET AGENTS BUY SHEEP

The New York Times to-day states that representatives of the Soviet Commissariat of Agriculture, who left for Moscow November 2, announced that they had purchased 3,000 pure bred sheep as part of the program of the Russian Government for the improvement of the sheep breeds in the steppe and mountain regions of the Caucasus, Turkestan and Siberia with a view of obtaining at home the large quantities of wool they now find it necessary to import.

FARM HELP IN NEBRASKA

A Lincoln dispatch to the press to-day states that unemployment in Nebraska is negligible, only those who do not want to work being idle. Farmers in many localities are advertising for corn huskers, and a great deal of building in the cities makes it difficult to supply the demand. Many farmers will be late getting their corn cribbed because of the lack of help.

VIENNA BAKERS STRIKE

A Vienna dispatch to the press to-day states that fully 7,000 bakers went on strike last evening. They demanded a 20 per cent increase in wages, which their employers refused.

Section 2

Agricultural Conditions

Arthur P. Chew is the author of an extensive article entitled "Our Embattled Farmers" in The Atlantic Monthly for November. Mr.Chew says in part: "Farmer radicalism varies in degree in different States, but not in kind. Curiously there is more of it in the newer and richer farming regions than in the older and poorer ones. Its special preserve is the richly productive land of the Middle West and the Northwest. You don't find much of it among the stony hills of New England or in the less fertile lands of the Middle Atlantic States. Evidently it is not specifically a product of poverty. Singularly enough, moreover, it is not materially influenced in its ideas by the varying economic circumstances out of which it seems to arise. The radical ideas now being propagated in Iowa, as a result of distress attributed to the post-war depression, are much like those preached by the Nonpartisan League in North Dakota in the boom years of war-time....Farmers in the Middle West and Northwest are dissatisfied with their earnings because they seem insufficient for current needs and future independence. Certainly the road to full ownership is steep when annual farm earnings are less than annual capital values. Farms that yield a surplus of only 3 per cent on their valuations certainly can not produce their own purchase money. But may not the trouble lie with the valuations to a greater extent than with the earnings? When earnings are persistently capitalized at an excessive rate, it helps the average operating farmer very little to increase them. ...It would be wrong to say that the farmers have no serious handicap except overcapitalization of farm lands. Their troubles have been aggravated in the last few years by disparities between prices of farm products and prices of other goods. Wheat-growers and livestock-raisers face increasing foreign competition. Wastes in distribution are a cause of loss. Farmers are also handicapped by the extreme difficulty of adjusting their production accurately to the demand. Moreover, since the depression of 1920 and 1921 there has been distress in regions where land valuations are obviously not inflated. This is true of many grazing areas. Beef-cattle producers have had perhaps a harder time in recent years than any other group of agricultural producers, and yet as a whole they are not burdened with heavy land charges. Full allowance should be made for these qualifying considerations. And yet, when this is done, the importance of overcapitalization as a cause of agrarian discontent is not materially lessened. For one thing, most of the farmer's other grievances have a tendency to correct themselves. This is particularly true of price disparities, which tend to disappear from the action of the well-known economic law whereby capital and labor flow in and out of different enterprises until their returns are approximately equalized. Losses due to inefficient distribution diminish as improved marketing facilities are developed, and better use of supply and demand data helps the farmer to gauge his production more nearly in accordance with market needs. But overcapitalization tends constantly to nullify the results at least from the standpoint of the working farmer, of everything done toward solving the other problems of agriculture. Until that trouble is eliminated, farming will not be a means of wealth, or even of reasonable prosperity, for the men who work at it."

Bartlett on Cotton Situation

"Only a concerted holding movement in the South can restore stability to the cotton market, says Edward E. Bartlett, jr. of Gwathmey & Co., former president of the New York Cotton Exchange, in his weekly review of the cotton market....'The action of the market has made potential

buyers extremely timid, and it is difficult to forecast how far the decline may be extended before confidence is restored. Under these conditions we believe it will require a concerted holding movement in the South to restore market stability, and until this is in evidence the trade will be lower. Technical allies may intervene, but we believe lower levels will be reached before the next Government report.'" (Press,Nov. 2.)

German Cotton Buying — A Berlin dispatch to the press of November 2 says: "The very large import of cotton into Germany, especially from the United States, continues as a result of the exceptional boom in the German spinning trade which began last winter. During the first eight months of the current year, these cotton imports have amounted to 289,000 metric tons, against 332,920 tons in the whole of 1924. "

New Orleans on Cotton Report — A New Orleans dispatch to the press of November 2 says: "However faulty the methods of the Government in preparing its cotton estimate may be, the prevailing belief is that the final outturn of the present crop will bear out the latest official estimate and possibly exceed it. Of course there are a number of enthusiastic bears ready to claim that the freeze has done more good than harm by causing nearly mature bolls to open, but that is hardly the belief of the more conservative element. But even this latter element realizes that the crop is turning out so bountiful in all parts of the belt that the excess over expectations will more than offset frost damage, particularly should a return of good weather following the cold spell permit the picking and ginning of the large amount of cotton still open and unpicked in the fields in most parts of the cotton belt."

Poultry Inspection — An editorial in The Prairie Farmer for October 17 says: "The National Poultry Congress at its recent meeting in Chicago passed a resolution asking Congress to pass an appropriation of $100,000 to provide for Federal inspection of poultry in transit similar to the inspection of other classes of livestock. Poultrymen contend that Federal inspection would have checked much of the spread of the European fowl plague last winter and lowered the resultant losses. Similar resolutions were passed at the annual meeting of the Indiana State Poultry Association. The ravages of the European fowl plague were checked in most States as soon as the disease was discovered. A thorough inspection service at concentration points and of cars of poultry enroute to market would discover such diseases."

Wheat Market — An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for October 31 says: "Wheat for May delivery at Chicago on October 28 was 14 cents higher than on the third of the month. This is the effect of forces that should make themselves felt in the wheat market until the new crop becomes a factor. On the third of October wheat for May delivery at Chicago, using the new method of quotations, ranged between 134 5/8 and 137 3/8 a bushel. On the 29th of the month the same contract ranged between 149 and 152, closing at 149 3/8. This was not a market flurry, but it was brought about by a steady, creeping movement extending over the month. Little by little wheat has advanced, sometimes suffering reactions, but never going below the low point of the third of the month. There was a sharp reaction on the day following the high point, but the trend has not been altered. The reason for the pessimism earlier in the season was the apparently large supply in the other exporting countries, which notwithstanding the fact that we were close to a domestic basis and protected by an almost

prohibitory tariff, unfavorably affected the wheat market. Russia was proclaiming to the world her ability to ship large quantities of wheat. These promises were taken seriously; Canada had a large surplus and looked for a competitor in Russia. At the time our wheat was down to 134 5/8 Winnipeg was offering December wheat as low as 115 5/8. On the 29th the same contract went up to as high as 134 3/8. Of late the Australian crop caused some apprehension in Liverpool, but the reports of rain in Australia may somewhat relieve that feeling. The failure of Russia to deliver real wheat makes it certain that Canada will be the main source of supply for the importing world for the next four or five months. This is one of the reasons why Winnipeg prices have been stiffening in the past three or four weeks. As for our own situation, this newspaper at different times pointed out the fact that there was a close adjustment between needs and actual supply of bread wheat east of the Rocky Mountains. This is a situation that can not be corrected in the present crop season, except by imports of Canadian wheat. A certain proportion of our own wheat will go into export for various reasons, and if the supply is lowered below a certain point we must make it up by Canadian imports. Our visible supply now is decreasing, there has been no burdensome northwestern movement, and millers are paying large premiums for winter wheat. Meanwhile the next harvest is eight months in the future. The extreme bearishness of the wheat market must gradually give way to the force of the statistical position."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for October 29 says: "Senator Caraway is quoted as saying that this winter he will proceed by congressional action against the cotton exchanges, and perhaps the Department of Agriculture. The moving cause is the official cotton crop estimate on Monday of 15,226,000 bales. This, he says, has cost the cotton planters $350,000,000 and before the end of the season may cost them an additional $100,000,000. Two hundred and fifty million dollars is a large sum and if the Senator could prove his allegation he would have the attention of Congress and the whole country. However, there is a maxim of the common law, that 'allegation is not proof.' A party coming into court may allege great damages suffered, but before he can get a judgment he must prove his case by competent evidence. Thundering in the Congressional Record this winter will not prove this allegation of loss. And it will be difficult to find the necessary evidence when the facts point the other way....At the time the report was published, the Census Bureau count showed that 9,519,784 bales had already been ginned. Presumably two-thirds of that had already passed out of the planters' hands into the dealers' and consumers' hands. That disposes of at least 40 per cent of the decline, taking it from the shoulders of the planters and placing it elsewhere. But why attempt to arouse sectional antagonism against those who deal with or in the cotton exchanges? Is the senatorial memory so short that it forgets when the exchanges were closed in 1914? A cotton exchange is not a place where a brood of harpies gather, beat down the price of cotton and then rush in and buy the crop. Instead, it is a market place where men buy and sell, and therefore is strongly two-sided. Why denounce the Crop Reporting Board for doing its duty? The law compels it to make public these reports. From its statistics it concluded the crop was 15,226,000 bales. Its duty was to announce that fact without regard to what effect it would have upon the market price of cotton. It did that without fear or favor, and if the final ginning report shows it was approximately correct, Senator Caraway's case would collapse because his allegations were not supported by proof."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Nov.2: Pennsylvania sacked Round White potatoes ranged $4.15 to $4.65 in eastern markets, top of $5 in Baltimore. New York sacked Round White potatoes $4.35 to $4.50 in New York City and mostly around $4.05 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Danish type cabbage advanced $10 to $20 per ton, closing at $25 to $35 to jobbers in eastern markets and $17 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. Virginia Yellow varieties of sweet potatoes mostly $3.50 to $4.75 per barrel in city wholesale markets; $3.75 to $3.85 f.o.b. New York Baldwin apples sold at $4.50 to $5 per barrel in New York City and mostly $4 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Wealthys ranged $3.75 to $4.25 in eastern markets; Twenty Ounce mostly $4 to $4.50.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.60; bulk $10.30 to $11.20; beef steers choice $13.75 to $15.35; good $10 to $14.15; heifers, good and choice $7 to $11.75; cows, good and choice $5.50 to $8.65; common and medium $3.85 to $5.50; canners and cutters $3 to $3.90; vealers, medium to choice $9.25 to $13.25; heavy calves, medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $13.75 to $15.50; yearling wethers, medium to choice $10 to $13.25; fat ewes, common to choice $4.50 to $8.25; feeding lambs, medium to choice $13.75 to $16.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 50¢; Chicago 50¢; Philadelphia 51 1/2¢; Boston 50¢.

Grain prices quoted November 2: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.47 to $1.72. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.67; St. Louis $1.71 to $1.73. Kansas City $1.67. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.58; St. Louis $1.64; Kansas City $1.58. No.2 mixed corn Chicago 81 1/4¢; No.2 mixed corn Kansas City 84¢; Minneapolis 76 1/2 to 82 1/2¢; No.2 yellow corn Chicago 82 1/2¢; St. Louis 82¢; Kansas City 86¢. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 82¢; Minneapolis 88¢. No.2 white corn Chicago 81 3/4¢; St. Louis 83¢. Kansas City 85 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 39¢; Minneapolis 35¢; St. Louis 40¢; No.2 white oats Kansas City 39 3/4¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 46 points, closing at 18.88¢ per lb. New York December future contracts advanced 51 points, closing at 19.37¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov. 2,	Oct. 31,	Nov. 1, 1924
20 Industrials	157.88	156.52	104.17
20 R.R. stocks	105.19	105.03	89.33

(Wall St. Jour., Nov. 3.)

- - -

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 30 Section 1 November 4, 1925.

LUMBER PRODUCERS' MERGERS FORECAST

A Portland,Ore., dispatch to the press of November 4 says: "Merging of western Oregon and western Washington lumber producers into large units as a means of marketing products more advantageously has been suggested by Robert B. Allen, manager of the West Coast Lumbermen's Association. He cites the weakness of individual mills in coping with the problem of maintaining sufficient sales forces to cover the extensive territory where Douglas fir is used, resulting in throwing most of the price-making into the hands of buyers. Manager Allen forecasts very strong mergers in West Coast lumber production, not tending toward monopoly, but sufficiently strong in financial resources to maintain salaried salesmen in the greater portion of the more important consuming markets."

VIENNA HAS BREAD FAMINE

A Vienna dispatch to the press to-day states that by 8 o'clock yesterday morning Vienna was without bread as a result of the bakers' strike which started November 2. The bakers' strike seems almost certain to be followed by a strike of State employees Thursday although in a modified form. A strike of the State employees is almost certain to bring about the resignation of the Cabinet.

RUMANIAN GRAIN EXPORTS

A Bucharest dispatch to the press to-day says: "The Rumanian grain export market is in a demoralized state, and grain dealers say that this is due to the persistence of Russian grain offers in the European markets at low prices. It is stated that the shipment of barley from Russian ports last week exceeded 100,000 tons. With winter about to close the Danube River for shipping, Rumanian exporters are abandoning hope for any improvement in the grain export situation this year."

WORLD EXPORT

An editorial in The New York Times for to-day says: "The National Foreign Trade Council has made a comparison with 1913 of the exports of the fifteen nations which together did 80 per cent of the world business in the fiscal year 1925. Canada made the greatest proportionate gain 94 per cent; but the gain of the United States, although only 30 per cent, is itself larger than Canada's total exports. Russia made the greatest relative loss, 84 per cent, while Germany decreased 47 per cent. The comparisons are in dollars reduced to the purchasing power of 1913. The quantity changes closely correspond, as the Department of Commerce estimated in 1924 that the physical volume was 96 per cent of 1913, and increasing from 6 to 8 per cent a year. So far as exports are concerned, the world is now close to normal in total, but with great shifts as between individual nations. This does not apply to England, which is only 5 per cent below pre-war values. France's increase of her exports by 24 per cent contrasts with Germany's larger decrease....."

Section 2

Agricultural Conditions

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal of November 3 says:"'Agricultural depression, as mentioned in the Hoch-Smith bill, does not now exist,' said Dr. David Friday, testifying the western rate case before the Interstate Commerce Commission. To some professional farm uplifters this testimony of Doctor Friday is rank heresy. But before he is drawn and quartered, it may be well to substantiate his testimony. It is a rule of evidence that witnesses are to be weighed and not counted. Doctor Friday was formerly president of the Michigan Agricultural College, and it is a fair presumption that he has made a study of agricultural affairs, not only in his immediate vicinity but throughout the country. He is also considered one of the foremost statisticians in the United States. His declaration that there is no crisis now should carry great weight. There was a time during the post-war boom when prices of agricultural products were abnormally high. Farm bureaus and farm politicians were advising the farmers to hold for still higher prices. The sky was the limit, according to the view of these near economists, who did not then hear the mutterings of the approaching storm. Deflation came, and farm products went so low that the farmers' dollar had a purchasing power of around 69 cents. Caught with large surpluses of farm products on the decline, the farmers were in a critical situation. There was a crisis then....The cotton crop of 1924 was officially estimated at $1,683,000,000, including the seed. The crop for the preceding year was $1,788,000,000. Never in pre-war days were such sums received for the crop. Between August 1,1924, and July 31, 1925, the index price of cotton and seed ranged between 219 and 183, the average price of 1913 being the base. Grains ranged between 140 and 178, meat animals between 113 and 149, while non-agricultural commodities were between 159 and 164. Between January 1 and July 3 of this year the Department of Agriculture indexes of wholesale prices rule from 161 to 165. In July the figure was 164. With the exception of dairy products and meat animals, the principal groups of agricultural products have ranged above that level. As all these different groups are either near the general price level or above it, it is a strain on the imagination to believe in a farm crisis. Those who say there is one ruined the farmer in 1920 by ignorantly advising him against selling at the top."

Cotton Marketing

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for November 2 says: "Reports fairly generally from the South indicate that the farmers are growing seriously dissatisfied with the way cotton prices are gradually working to lower levels. They think, so it is said, that 20c to the producers is about as little as could be called fair and are disposed to hold back when values go below that level. Doubt exists rather widely that as much cotton has been made as many are inclined to estimate, and much talk is heard of a scarcity of high grade staple for the mills....Now there is not the slightest reason why individual farmers, or groups of producers for that matter, should not use their very best judgment in disposing of their year's output. If they are convinced that higher prices will rule somewhat later they would be unwise not to do what they can to realize a better return for their crops. They may or may not be correct in their appraisal of the current situation. If they are correct they may gain appreciably by a slower marketing policy. If they are wrong they may lose. The risks involved in the situation are hazards that all business men in essentially the same position must face and assume. This much all fair minded men will admit without reservation. Attempts on the part of the

farmers, or groups of farmers organized as marketing agencies of one sort or another, to hold cotton off the market in order to build up an artificial or monopoly set of values is a wholly different matter. Unless the crop is a good deal over-estimated at the present time or unless damage to grade during the month just passed has been much neglected, efforts to corner the cotton market will almost inevitably fail, and the same is to be said of policies that involve hoarding of the staple with the expectation that prices can in this manner be forced up enough to make such a practice profitable. The cotton interests of the South need to employ good judgment in the existing circumstances, and particularly to distinguish carefully between orderly and intelligent marketing and efforts at price manipulation."

Danish and Canadian Butter and Cheese

An editorial in Ontario Farmer for October 31 says: "According to dispatches emanating from the European markets the Danish farmer is becoming alarmed at the inroads being made by butter and cheese from the Dominions. Formerly, the bulk of the imported butter and cheese consumed in England and Scotland came from Denmark. Since the war the overseas Dominions have been supplying an increasing proportion of the British market requirements, and this year the quantity reaching these markets has caused the Dane much alarm, and already he is taking steps to study the situation---new to him---and refreshing to Canadians, to whom for many years, the Dane, with his quality, quantity production, has been held up as an example. Canada has greatly increased her dairy exports to Great Britain during the current year. Butter exports up to the end of July amounted to 28,869,307 pounds, valued at $10,317,819, as compared with 14,474,341 pounds, valued at $5,278,479 for the same period of 1924. It is evident that the efforts which have been put forward to develop overseas markets are bringing results, and the situation, favorable to Canada, is a sterling demonstration of the reaction to quality offerings...."

Economic "Disarmament"

An editorial in The New York Times of November 3 says: "Secretary Hoover repeats his warning of three years ago. There is a steadily increasing tendency among Governments of the world to regulate production and fix prices of the raw materials of which they control the output, with results deeply injurious to one another and to us. The cases of England and rubber, Brazil and coffee, Germany and potash, Chile and nitrates are familiar. Few realize how many indispensable articles are similarly capable of control---jute, sisal, antimony, tungsten, nickel, tin, quicksilver, asbestos, quinine, iodine, silk, tea and many others. In some cases, as in the Brazilian valorization of coffee, the action of the Government originated in a praiseworthy effort to stabilize an industry subject to disastrous fluctuations. In others it was born of the imperative needs of wartime. In all cases its continuance is fraught with the danger of a misuse of economic power. Hitherto we have suffered patiently. But the law against trade combinations has been so modified that we may, if we will, take part in such economic strife, and we hold the dominant position with regard to oil, cotton, copper---to say nothing of that particularly raw material, capital. Says Secretary Hoover: 'If we, the strongest of all nations, enter upon such programs of creating combinations, we will have given strength to forces of evil in the commercial world which generations could not remedy.' Is there any possible recourse other than an international agreement? In the recent Assembly at Geneva, Louis Loucheur pointed out that what we call disarmament is a futile thing unless the rival nations practice also an economic disarmament. In the

larger as in the more liberal sense, no nation can disarm alone without placing itself in the power of its rivals--as our Department of Commerce is becoming painfully aware. M. Loucheur urged upon the League the calling of an economic conference....In the economic conference of the League, when it convenes, we shall have a vital interest. Its outcome will largely determine the ability of our creditors to pay. What is of greater importance, the question will be decided whether, in the decades to come, the nations upon which the health of our foreign commerce depends are to be good or bad customers. At such a conference, and only there, is it possible to command a respectful hearing for the problem which Secretary Hoover states. Commercially even more than politically the world of to-day is essentially a unit."

Exports to Russia

An Associated Press dispatch from Moscow says: "The United States led the world in exports to Russia during the first nine months of 1925. Soviet trade returns show that nearly $70,000,000 worth of American goods, representing 35 per cent of Russia's total imports, was bought by the Soviet Government during this period. Imports from England were second, totaling $68,000,000. Imports from Germany were third, amounting to $59,000,000.

German Potash Bed

A Freiburg, Germany, dispatch to the press of November 2 states that deposits of potash salts of an exceptional quality are reported to have been struck at a depth of 800 yards at Buddingen potash works after three years of continued borings. The concern, subsidized by the government of Baden, was established three years ago.

Meat Consumption

An editorial in Farm and Ranch for October 24 says: "Americans are decreasing their per capita consumption of meat. There is more than one reason for this. Better shipping facilities, better packing and icing, and improvement in production place before consumers a large variety of fresh fruits and vegetables every month of the year. As far as consumers are concerned, there are no longer any seasons. They are eating fresh fruits and vegetables with more regularity and in increasing quantities, therefore they are eating less meat. Canned and dried fruits and vegetables are also placed before them in attractive packages. There is another contributing cause for decreasing consumption of meat. Quality meat is almost unobtainable by the average buyer for the family table. There are thousands of grown men and women who never tasted first-class meat because they have never dined at some big hotel for which the best cuts have been set aside. There is not enough good meat to go around, and what there is sells at a premium to the fancy trade. There is a surplus of ordinary meat cut from the carcasses of old cows and scrub steers, and that is the kind made available for the small buyer. No wonder the per capita consumption of meat is decreasing. It has been the boast of the big packers that they furnish a daily market for anything farmers have to sell. It is not unreasonable to believe that by buying any kind of an animal offered the packers are discouraging the production of good meat and losing the opportunity to increase the demand for their products. Instead of this daily market being a benefit to the farmers, it has just the opposite effect in the long run. Every carload of scrubs marketed has a depressing effect on the price of good, well-finished animals. If the packers would set a standard and refuse to buy animals for butchering that did not measure up to it, they would do more to encourage the production of better-type meat animals than all the propaganda they can print

on the subject during the next ten years. Just so long as there is some kind of a market for scrubs, scrubs will be produced."

Yellowstone Park Addition

The press of November 1 states that the President's Commission on Recreation, which includes the Secretaries of War, Interior, Agriculture and Labor, has suggested adjustments of the boundary of the Yellowstone National Park which would add 200,000 acres to its area. The Teton Range, the western watershed of the Absarcke Range and the watershed of the Upper Yellowstone River are in the proposed addition. The watershed of the Upper Yellowstone River would be kept as a refuge for game. The commission purposes also to add about 45,000 acres to the Grand Canyon National Park. Adjustments affecting the Sequoia National Park in California and the Mount Rainier National Park also are proposed. Congress must approve all these proposed changed before they can become effective.

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in Farm and Fireside for November says: "The Department of Agriculture seems to be getting small thanks from farmers for its market prophecies. But the outbursts we have seen have seemed to us more peevish than to the point. The criticisms we have seen have questioned, first, the department's right to do the work, then its motive in doing it. For our part we rather doubt whether these Washington economists will find it practical to continue prophesying in forms as specific as those lately issued. But it is unfair, we think, to question their right--and indeed their duty--to gather and put out reliable market information. And to question their motive is not only ridiculous but also downright stupid. Their motive is simple. It is to let the farmer share with the buyer the advantages of advance market information. If--as certain speakers have suggested--the aim were, instead, to tip off the packers, the department might have taken a quieter way of doing so. If any form of forecast gives the buyer the jump it is the old way of presenting straight facts. It takes more or less expert knowledge to read trends from market figures, and a good deal of time and bother. The buyers are in a better position to do this than are most farmers. For our part we admire the nerve of these economists in predicting prices. They are trying to help the farmer in the greatest of his present problems--marketing. In this they are up against an ancient superstition--that to publish forecasts gives the buyer a sly look over the farmer's shoulder. The fact is that, with the need of market information as great as it is, the game is bound to be played with the cards down. But if the Government should be forced to stop collecting and giving out crop and market information the private services owned by business interests would be the only source of information and commercially controlled forecasts might indeed be used for selfish purposes. The question is not whether the Government should continue forecasting, but whether it has not gone too far in interpreting its figures. And this can only be determined after a fair trial."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Pennsylvania sacked Round White potatoes ranged $4.35 to $4.55 per 100 pounds, top of $5 in Baltimore. New York Danish type cabbage sold at a range of $25 to $40 bulk per ton in leading eastern markets and $17 to $22 f.o.b. Rochester. New York and midwestern yellow onions brought $2.25 to $3 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers and $2.25 to $2.50 f.o.b. Shipping points. Pennsylvania Stayman Winesap apples $5 per barrel in Philadelphia. New York Baldwins $1.40 to $1.50 per bushel basket in a few markets and $1.25 to $1.35 f.o.b. Rochester.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.60 for the top, bulk $10.75 to $11.25; beef steers choice $13.50 to $15.75; heifers, good and choice $7 to $11.75; cows, good and choice $5.35 to $8.50; canners and cutters $3 to $3.90; vealers, medium to choice $9.25 to $13.25; heavy calves medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $13.75 to $15.50; yearling wethers, medium to choice $10. to $13.25; fat ewes, common to choice $4.50 to $8.25; feeding lambs, medium to choice $13.75 to $15.75.

Grain prices quoted November 3: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.49 to $1.74. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.68 to $1.73. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.60; St. Louis $1.53 1/2 to $1.54; No.2 mixed corn Chicago 83 1/2¢; St. Louis 78 1/2¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 83 3/4 to 84¢; No.3 yellow corn Chicago 83 1/4 to 83 1/2¢; Minneapolis 85 1/2 to 89 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 39 1/4 to 39 3/4¢; Minneapolis 35 to 35 1/4¢; St. Louis 39 1/2 to 40¢.

No Cotton report on account of Election Day in New York City. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 31 Section 1 November 5, 1925.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The New York Times to-day says: "President Coolidge began work yesterday on the chapters of his annual message to Congress dealing with foreign relations in which he will emphasize the desirability of early action by the Senate on the proposal pledging American adherence to the International Court of Justice. Friends of the World Court are satisfied that the President will discuss this subject in a fashion that will focus public attention of the Senate, which, under an order adopted at the last session, will proceed to consideration of the Court proposal on December 17."

GROWERS JOINING COTTON COOPERATIVE

A Columbia, S.C., dispatch to the press to-day states that the slump in the price of cotton has driven hundreds of growers all over the belt into the Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association. Deliveries to the South Carolina Association continue far ahead of last season. The same report comes from other associations. Some State cooperatives already have more cotton this year than they got all last season. Blame for present low prices is placed on farmers who have not joined the association, according to a statement by its officials.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS AND FARMERS

A Kansas City dispatch to the press to-day says: "Business interests are called upon to help solve the farmer's problem, in an open letter from W. I. Drummond, chairman of the American Farm Congress, to John W. O'Leary, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce. Commercial interests, in Mr. Drummond's opinion, should aid in attacking the problem of the disposal of the surpluses of farm products, which they helped to create. The surplus problem is the biggest one from the standpoint of the farmer, because, he says, it makes the tariff ineffective and forces American prices down to world levels. He adds: 'A cooperative association which could effectively handle surplus production and prevent it from breaking the domestic price might be formed. An export pool, to which each producer would consign that portion of his crop representing his contribution to the surplus, should do the work. If, for illustration, the wheat crop is 10 per cent above the domestic requirements, then each grower would need to pool only 10 per cent of his production or a very little more. This export pool could be handled by any one of a number of existing grain companies, or a special marketing organization might be set up. The grower would have 90 per cent of his crop to dispose of when, where and how he pleased, with the assurance that the price would be on an American basis.' Mr. Drummond points out that while the farmers are told they must hold their production within domestic requirements in order to benefit from the tariff, great sums are expended to bring undeveloped lands into production, by the Railroad Colonization Departments, the Chambers of Commerce, by the Department of Agriculture through reclamation projects, and through agricultural colleges and the like."

Section 2

Agricultural Education in Canada

The first contingent of the one hundred young Englishmen which are to be placed in the agricultural schools of Alberta have arrived. As in the case of similar students arriving last year, their training will include practical outdoor work and instruction in the laboratories and class rooms, after which they will be placed in farm positions found for them. (Quebec dispatch, Nov.1.)

Cooperative Spirit

An editorial in Southern Agriculturist for November 1 says: "Looking over the field a little, it occurs to the writer that the chief reason so many farmers are not finding their cooperative associations to their liking is. that those farmers got into the cooperatives before they got into the spirit of cooperation. Farmers generally have yet to readjust themselves to the cooperative modes of thought and the cooperative methods of farming. Cooperation in agriculture means something far deeper and more inclusive than the organization of a few associations, or of many associations, to sell farm products. It means, in many cases, an entire change in the whole plan and policy of farming. The cooperative farmer will have to think more about cooperation when he goes to plant his crops as well as when he goes to sell them. He will have to produce cooperatively as well as try to sell cooperatively. He will have, in short, to think more about his fellow farmers and to realize more truly that they are co-workers with him, and that his best success, and theirs, can be had only when he and they work together. The farming of the future will be cooperative farming, and farmers will be wonderfully the better-off for the substitution of cooperative effort for unorganized and selfishly individualistic effort; but he who imagines that the change from the old unrestrained individualistic and competitive system to the newer and better cooperative system will be made overnight, or with ease, is but nursing a vain delusion. Great reforms do not come that easily. Nor do they come to people who are not willing to make some sacrifice to bring them about."

Farm Acreage

An editorial in The Rural New Yorker for October 31 says: "Some years ago certain of the economists claimed that the tendency in farming was toward larger farms--great enterprises conducted by corporations much as manufacturing has been organized. It seemed plausible at the time, but we have felt that ultimately the successful farm would be limited to the area which one good farmer can personally supervise. That idea seems to have proved itself. The big 'bonanza' wheat farms of the West are being cut up into smaller acreage. Most of the great truck farms in the South are finding that the smaller units are surpassing them in profit. Everywhere, events seem to be demonstrating that the farm, just large enough for one man's supervision, is coming more and more to be the most desirable unit. When the tractor was made practical it was claimed that this machine would drive the small farmer out of business by giving additional advantage to the large operator. The same argument was made for the milking machine when it became a practical help. In both cases the arguments of the wise men have gone wrong. Both tractor and milking machine have come to the help of the one-man farmer and enabled him to hold his own in farm competition. The shortage of farm labor has helped in this because the use of these important implements has enabled farmers to multiply the power of their hands and thus make adjustments in their farm operations which enable them to substitute for the hired man. There is something about the business of food production which separates it from

manufacturing as a business for large corporate enterprises. It will remain a business for individual farmers and their success will be largely decided by the limit of one man's power to give personal supervision to the work. That is good not only for the farmer but for the Nation."

Farm Conditions An editorial in Pacific Rural Press for October 24 says: "The Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation, headed by Samuel R. Guard, former publicity director of the American Farm Bureau Federation, has been feeling the business pulse of farmers of the United States, and it prints a map with three white spots showing where farm morale is excellent. One of these excellent spots comprises California, Nevada, Utah, Idaho and Wyoming. Another embraces Louisiana and Mississippi. The third excellent area is New England. All other States are marked good, fair, poor, or very poor. Most of them are marked good, the exceptions being Georgia, which is called very poor; Virginia, which is marked poor; and Alabama, Tennessee and the Carolinas, designated as fair. Every report is that the country as a whole is optimistic....All this may not be very convincing to the man whose mortgage aches or whose bill-back pinches, but it does have a general value, for a reasonable amount of cheer makes the old mare go."

Farmers' Elevators An editorial in Wallaces' Farmer for October 30 says: "The farmers' elevators have a wonderful opportunity right now to step in and to take the aggressive leadership of the whole grain marketing movement. If they permit themselves to be told that they have already reached perfection, that no more improvements are needed, they are not only going to fail in their new workbut will not be able to hold the ground that has already been gained. The greatest enemies of the movement are not those who openly attack it; the greatest enemies are those in the ranks who by preaching a false security make it difficult for reforms in internal organization to be achieved."

Farm Taxes An editorial in New England Homestead for October 24 says: "The old despotism which robbed the poor farmers of India, grabbed from one-fifth to one-third of their crops, a situation that was much relieved when England came into power there, but right now the tax burden imposed upon many a farmer in the United States takes practically all of the products of his farm, not merely one-fifth or one-third of them. That is to say, the local taxes which the farmer pays direct to the local tax collector plus the taxes he pays directly or indirectly to State and Nation, plus what he pays in high prices for commodities, plus what he pays in high prices for labor, (which prices include all the various taxes accruing thereon) make a total almost equal to the aggregate of all the receipts from the farm. It is by no means uncommon, of late years, for the local direct taxes imposed upon farms to equal if not exceed the cash rental that can be obtained for the farm. Whether you look merely at these direct local taxes or at the indirect taxes which farmers have to pay in various other forms, it is evident that the present tax burden is not only excessive but at times confiscatory, so far as agriculture is concerned."

Foreign Butter Situation An editorial in Chicago Dairy Produce for October 27 says: "Last week the foreign butter situation was a feature that received some attention. Butter is a world product, subject to world market conditions, but it is only occasionally that these conditions figure prominently as making up a noticeable influencing factor. Lately the prospect of light production in Australia and New Zealand, and more recently the seamen's strike in those countries were decided bull factors. Recent reports tell of

rains in part of the Australian butter territory, but nothing has yet been heard that will change opinions as to output of the new season just opening. The seamen's strike affected the British markets because of delayed shipments of butter from Australia and New Zealand. Prices on Colonial butters advanced and the advance extended to the Colonial receipts. All kinds of butter in English markets were well cleared up and the trade was feeling a shortage."

Industrial Movement to the Country

An editorial in Farm and Fireside for November says: "The prospect of peaceful countrysides invaded by reeking smokestacks and alien hordes is not pleasing. But it is a definite future possibility. Industries are already turning from overcrowded cities to the open country, where labor is cheaper and living more tolerable. How these industries will behave once the smaller communities are reached will be determined largely by what public opinion demands of them. The modern factory is often inoffensive in appearance, even beautiful. The smoke nuisance can be cured. But the effect on people is of deeper consequence. Wages go up when factories come in, and the ranks of farm workers are thinned. The entire character of a community may be altered. But there are also compensating advantages. There are too many farmers now; too few consumers of farm products. Changing this ratio will tend to raise farm prices. Most towns of 5,000 and up would benefit by new industries. Not only would the towns prosper but near-by farmers would profit through better markets for their products. And if the new factory turned out a product like shoes, local consumers might save money. This change is now actually taking place everywhere. It is time that farmers, business men and the general public gave it intelligent direction."

Wheat Production

An editorial in The Northwestern Miller for October 28 says: "It is impossible to follow even so wise a man as Secretary of Agriculture Jardine in his counsel to farmers to avoid world competition in wheat prices by restricting their seeding to domestic needs. In its strictly local application to the wheat grower there may be some small merit in the advice, although even this is doubtful. But what, meantime, would be the effect on our general prosperity under a policy of limiting food production to what we ourselves can eat? There is not a wide difference between urging the farmer to halt the productivity of his acres and encouraging the coal miner in his demand for a four-hour day and a five-day week. The one has for its purpose increasing the price of bread to profit the producer; the other, raising the price of coal to inflate the miner's wages. The false principle of limiting production is equally present in each case. Both have for their purpose making goods scarce and dear, rather than abundant and cheap. Differences are in detail. And what would be gained by wheat growers? This year, production and domestic demand are in balance to the verge of safety. Mathematically our price is independent of world value. Yet we are not actually independent, and the present price of wheat is not sufficiently above the world price to balance even a small part of the loss entailed in failure to export our normal contribution to the world's needs. Theoretically, we could reduce our wheat production to an import basis and thereby enrich the grower. Actually, we can not do so. Beyond this is the larger question, not at all academic, of the right of men or of Government willfully to reduce the supply of bread. Difficulties of distribution may continue to make it impossible to satisfy all of the

hunger in the world, but these difficulties should not be added to by denial of the blessings of soil, sun and rain through producing less bread than Nature invites. Civilization is at all times but a few weeks removed from hunger. Is any cause sufficient to justify narrowing this margin? The conscience of this country is clear in having shared its bounties with all the world through war's turmoil and these subsequent years of war embittered peace. It would not hereafter be so clear if we were now to declare 'Henceforth I will feed my own.' Every fallow acre would tell of hunger; every penny added to the loaf, of greed. This country's duty is rather in the words of King Lemuel, in the lesson that his mother taught him, 'She looketh well to the ways of the household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.'"

Wool Grower Cooperation in Britain

The following article on cooperation among the wool growers of the county of Kent, England, appears in Country Life (London) for October 24: "In these difficult times farmers are constantly exhorted to cooperate and combine, for their own sakes and for the sake of the country's agriculture. Those among them who favor the theory of cooperation, but doubt whether it is workable in their own industry, would do well to consider the progress of Kent Wool Growers, Limited, which is an outstandingly successful example of the cooperative principle intelligently put into practice. The old method of marketing the wool of the famous Kent or Romney Marsh sheep was by private sale to wool dealers or staplers, and a good deal is still disposed of in this way. Some fifteen years ago auction sales were started, and the prices realized made it at once apparent that the staplers' prices for lamb's-wool and 'locks,' which had always borne a more or less fixed ratio to those for fleece wool, had been much too low. In private dealings two growers selling on the same day would obtain the same flat rate price, although one growth might be much better than another, but at the auctions the best growths of wool made the highest prices. With the outbreak of war and the control of wool the auctions were discontinued, and have not been revived. But they had achieved a most valuable result in the enlightenment of the wool grower. In 1920, a small group of Kent sheep breeders established Kent Wool Growers, Limited. The principle of the association is cooperative marketing, and its affairs are administered by a committee elected from the members. The model rules of the Agricultural Organization Society were adopted, by which members must hold as a minimum a 1 pound share, 5 per cent interest on this being the first charge on profits. The association receives the wool into spacious stores at Ashford, the center of the principal wool-growing district of the county. Here each individual consignment is at once sorted and graded by Bradford-trained experts, the quantity it contains of each grade is recorded, and a note of such weights sent to the member. There are a large number of grades--no fewer than forty-five for fleeces, four for lamb's wool and two for locks. As soon as the consignment is graded, the member is entitled to an interim advance from the association of a sum rather below the estimated market value. The necessary finance is provided by bankers on the security of the wool itself, with a collateral personal guarantee to a certain amount from some of the leading members. When a sufficient quantity of wool has been received and graded, 5 per cent samples of each grade are sent to stores in London, and the bulk is sold at what is judged to be an appropriate and favorable time by London brokers at the Coleman Street Wool Exchange--the central wool market of the world. The net proceeds from the sale of each grade are apportioned among the growers

according to their individual quantities already recorded, the interim advance and a small sum for over-head charges deducted, and the balance paid to the grower. The progress of the association has been very encouraging. Starting in 1920 with seventy-five members, it now has over seven hundred, while the number of fleeces handled has increased from 25,000 to 145,000, and the net sales from 12,500 pounds to nearly 75,000 pounds in 1924. The larger bulk of wool handled has naturally reduced the overhead charges, which were at first about $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., but last year were reduced to $\frac{3}{4}$d., and it is hoped they may be further reduced this year. So far the results to growers themselves, as compared with the results from individual selling, have been distinctly favorable, but it must be remembered that throughout its career the association has had the advantage of a strong market and a good demand. The progress of the society will be watched with keen interest not only by Kentish sheep breeders, but by all who desire the extension of cooperative marketing."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Nov.4: New York sacked Round White potatoes closed at $4.25 to $4.50 per 100 pounds in New York City and shippers were asking $4.40 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Baldwin apples brought $4.50 to $5 per barrel in New York City and $4 to $4.25 f.o.b. Rochester. Best New York and midwestern Yellow varieties of onions ranged $2.25 to $3.00 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers. Yellow varieties ranged $2.25 to $3.00 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers and $2.20 to $2.80 f.o.b. shipping points. Virginia Yellow varieites of sweet potatoes closed at $3.75 to $4.75 per barrel in leading markets and $3.75 to $4 f.o.b.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.75 for the top; bulk $10.75 to $11.50; beef steers choice $13.25 to $15.35; heifers, good and choice $7 to $11.50; cows, good and choice $5.25 to $8.50; canners and cutters $3 to $4; vealers medium to choice $9 to $12.75; heavy calves medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $13.75 to $15.50; yearling wethers, medium to choice $10 to $13.25; fat ewes, common to choice $4.75 to $8.25; feeding lambs $13.75 to $15.75.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 50¢; Chicago 49 1/4¢; Philadelphia 51 1/2¢; Boston 50¢.

Grain prices quoted November 4: No.2 red winter Chicago $1.70 1/2; St. Louis $1.68 to $1.72; Kansas City $1.68. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.61; St. Louis $1.63; Kansas City $1.60 to $1.64. No.2 mixed corn Chicago 84 1/2¢; Kansas City 86 1/2¢; No.3 mixed corn 76 to 81¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 85 1/4¢; St. Louis 83 ¢. No.3 yellow corn Minneapolis 87 to 91¢. No.2 white corn Chicago 85; St. Louis 84¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 40¢; Minneapolis 35 1/4¢; St. Louis 39 3/4¢; No.3 white oats Kansas City 39 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 8 points, closing at 19.40¢ per lb. New York December future contracts advanced 57 points from Monday's closing quotations, Tuesday being a holiday at New York, closing at 19.94¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov. 4,	Nov. 2,	Nov.3,1924
20 Industrials	158.05	157.88	103.89
20 R.R.stocks	105.13	105.19	89.53

(Wall St. Jour., Nov. 5.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XIX, No. 32 Section 1 November 6, 1925.

INCOME TAX CUTS The Associated Press to-day reports: "Removal of more than 1,000,000 individuals from the Federal income tax roll by increasing exemptions, and widespread reductions in these levies were voted yesterday by the House ways and means committee as the first actual step in its preparation of a new revenue bill. The income tax exemption figures agreed upon were $1,500 for single persons and $3,500 for heads of families, compared with $1,000 and $2,500, respectively, in the present law. Other changes decided upon included: Reduction of the maximum surtax rate from 40 to 20 per cent. Reduction of the normal rates from 2 to 1½ per cent on the first $4,000 of taxable income, from 4 to 3 per cent on the next $4,000 and from 6 to 5 per cent on the remainder. Increase in the age limit for the $400 exemption allowance for dependents from 18 to 21 years in cases where children are in school. Retention of the present 25 per cent reduction in the tax when applied to earned incomes of $10,000 or less also was decided upon by the committee. This first day of tax cutting by the committee was estimated as taking more than $200,000,000 off the Government annual revenue, subject, of course, to the approval of Congress, and was more extensive than the reduction program advanced by Secretary Mellon because of the increased exemptions...."

DUCKS DAMAGE RICE CROP A Stuttgart, Ark., dispatch to the press to-day states that wild ducks are damaging the $13,000,000 rice crop in that section to such an extent that growers are planning to take action to have removed all restrictions on shooting them. The ducks are in greater numbers than usual. State game officials announced that farmers must apply to the United States Biological Survey if they want the restrictions removed. The bag limit is regulated by the migratory bird treaty between the United States and Great Britain.

CHRISTMAS TREE TAX An Ottawa dispatch to the press to-day states that Christmas trees entering the United States from Canada this year will be dutiable at 10 per cent. Last year a United States Treasury decision admitted them free as "sticks of wood in the rough" A later decision, say advices received here, holds that while the word "stick" may apply to a stick of timber, it does not mean a tree simply severed from the ground. A Christmas tree, therefore, becomes a "non-enumerated unmanufactured article" and dutiable at 10 per cent ad valorem.

MOTOR VEHICLES An Ottawa dispatch to the press states that Canada with a population of 9,300,000 and 597,000 passenger motor vehicles ranks next to the United States in the ratio of motor cars to population. The United Kingdom with 567,000 cars ranks third, followed by France with 460,000; Germany, 154,000; Sweden, 49,000; Denmark, 32,000; Holland, 20,000; Norway, 15,000. These figures are based on returns for January 1, 1925.

Section 2

Canadian Cattle Exports

A Montreal dispatch states that exports of Canadian cattle for the first nine months of 1925 totaled 116,734 head as against 126,287 head in the corresponding period of 1924. Exports to Great Britain totaled 74,906 as against 54,100 in 1924 and exports to the United States, 36,499 as against 68,748 in the preceding year.

Farming and Forestry

An editorial in New England Homestead for October 24 says: "Not only does our agriculture depend much upon forestry, but the well being of many rural communities and cities also depends upon our woodworking and furniture industries. Therefore the first job ahead is to find out why stumpage has declined in value, why the woodworking industry is depressed, and what must be done to remedy these adverse conditions. A start on this job has begun by the survey now being made by the New Hampshire Lumber Association cooperating with Harvard forest. All other forestry and farm interests in New England doubtless will gladly assist i in similar effort. When the facts shall have been ascertained, the second and bigger job will be to apply the remedy. This will require organized effort by all concerned. But it can be accomplished. If done right, the result will add new value to every piece of waste land and brush land, as well to improve the worth of existing forests."

Farm Prices

An editorial in New England Homestead for October 24 says: "Price of farm products should advance and all manufactures decline. Such is the long look ahead by the economists of good standing who edit the Iron Age. 'This will be the general course of prices,' says the authority cited, 'because improved methods will constantly cut costs of manufactures, whereas crops whose supply is limited by nature can not reduce costs to a similar extent.' To this reasoning may be added the fact that food consumers are increasing much more rapidly than food production. However the future is viewed, The Homestead believes New England farm values are too low, relative to the more profitable returns likely to be gained by better methods of farming and marketing. With New England importing nearly 75% of the food it consumes, why should not our farmers do well?"

Farm Prices and Freight Rates

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for November 5 says: "Is there never to be an end to this tiresome discussion of farm prices and freight rates? It is hard to know which is the further off the mark; the farm politician who insists that all the woes of the agricultural producer are a direct result of inflated freight rates, or the spokesman for the railways who never tires of claiming that freight rates have nothing whatever to do with the price the farmer obtains for his grain or his cotton. The relation between the demand for and the supply of farm products, of course, fixes prices, and only indirectly does the item of freight enter. On the other hand, it is rather unfortunate that the railway statisticians should always be repeating the story that prices of such commodities fluctuate widely under a stable rate of freight charges, often more widely than the total freight bill on the commodities in question, and arguing therefrom that the freight charge accordingly has nothing to do with prices. Why can we not reach a point where intelligent and dispassionate discussion of this question is possible, to the end that agreement may be reached and, incidentally, that the petty politicians be robbed of at least a part of their ammunition for storming the citadel of public office?"

Food Prices Continued upward trend of retail food prices was reported yesterday by the Labor Department, which recorded increases in 22 representative cities between September 15 and October 15. The greatest increases, 2 per cent, were shown at Washington, Bridgeport, Buffalo, Fall River, Newark, New Haven, Peoria, Portland,Me., and Rochester. Since October 15, 1924, the same 22 cities have registered increases ranging from 12 per cent at Louisville to 6 per cent at Charleston.

Future Trading "What Price Future Trading?" is the title of a review of the Federal Trade Commission's grain futures report by John F. Fennelly, in Commerce and Finance for November 4. Mr. Fennelly says in part: "'Prices of Grain and Grain Futures' is the title of a recently published study by the Federal Trade Commission. This volume, the sixth of a series on the grain trade, is, statistically speaking, a fine piece of work. Its voluminous and carefully prepared tables of seasonal price trends and of spreads between various grains should make it a valuable addition to the library of anyone who would understand the price movements of grain. But when comment has been made of these beautiful tables and charts there is little more to say in favor of this report. As an analytical survey of the social value of future trading in grain, which this study purports to be, it it not to be taken seriously. But, unfortunately, it has to be taken seriously. It is the official product of a governmental agency and will carry considerable weight with those who are ever ready to spring to the aid of the downtrodden farmer. Since the Federal Trade Commission, in this report, has seen fit to cast grave doubts on the economic soundness of future trading, the arguments presented must be given consideration. The Federal Trade Commission concludes that grain futures do not appear to have a stabilizing effect on prices, and that as forecasts of prices several months hence they have a marked downward bias. These conclusions are interesting, not for the information they give us as to the economic value of future trading, but chiefly for the light they throw on the analytical methods of the Federal Trade Commission. The report is just what one would expect from a group of trained statisticians who approached the problem without any previous experience in the actual handling of grain. If any of the 'experts' who compiled this report had had that practical experience they would undoubtedly have started from sounder premises. The statistical work has been carefully and accurately done but the whole study is invalidated because it is based on false assumptions. We wonder where in the world the Federal Trade Commission ever obtained the idea that the main purposes of future trading are to prevent price fluctuations and to provide an accurate forecast of what prices will be nine months hence. We believe that these ideas will come as something of a surprise to grain dealers who have hedged their grain by the sale of futures for these many years. The latter have always regarded the futures market as a method of insurance whereby the risk of carrying a seasonal crop is distributed among those who are temperamentally and financially able to assume it. They thought that the futures served as an air cushion to sustain prices when the market was glutted with the early movement of grain from the country, and to check advances in times of relative scarcity. Most important of all they believed that the hedging process enabled the merchant to narrow the handling costs from producer to consumer by the elimination of risk... The one conclusion of the Federal Trade Commission with which we agree is that future trading is not fool-proof....The futures market never functions

exactly in accordance with preconceived theory; if it did, we could all be wealthy in a few months. It is not a perfect instrument--human institutions never are--but at least it is the best means yet devised by human wit for the accomplishment of the objects just described. Until the Federal Trade Commission can suggest something more efficient to take its place such studies are worse than useless."

Linseed Oil Duty — The press of November 5 states that leading flaxseed crushers interviewed yesterday declared that a cut in the linseed oil duty would probably have disastrous effects upon many western farmers who have been devoting considerable acreage to the planting of flaxseed. A substantial reduction, it was said, would probably result in a big drop in planting, which would aid Argentine planters, who in time would be in a position to manipulate the seed market. Furthermore, it was pointed out, there would undoubtedly be an influx of linseed oil which would also hit domestic crushers. The trade in general feels the proposed cut will not materialize. The President has ordered an investigation to determine whether a reduction in the present linseed oil duty might have serious effects upon the western farmers who are developing extensive flaxseed farms. Unless he is convinced that the tariff cut would not affect the income of the western producers, the trade feels that the President will not consent to the reduction.

Meat Situation — A review of the livestock and meat situation, issued November 2 by the Institute of American Meat Packers, states in part: "The demand for fresh pork was good during the month just closed. Prices of pork loins, however, declined immediately after the first of the month, and hog prices also showed a decrease. The business in smoked meats was fairly good, with prices about steady. The beef trade was not so satisfactory as in September, although the volume of business was reasonably good. The export trade was unsatisfactory. There were some future sales, but most observers questioned expressed the belief that foreign buyers are looking for lower prices on American products in the near future. Although hog receipts showed a decline, the quality and weight of the animals marketed was greatly improved over the same period last year when the hogs were marketed light and unfinished on account of the high values for corn."

Research and Industry — Approximately $35,000,000 annually is being spent by American manufacturers in research work, the United States Chamber of Commerce estimated November 4, and probably $500,000,000 annually is being saved as a result. In a statement describing some of the principal research activities now in progress, the chamber said the majority of trade associations were spending above $20,000 each annually in cooperative research, while large corporate units are spending much more. The National Canners Association reported $120,000 as its annual research budget, while the Portland Cement and National Lime associations each accounted for $100,000. Large permanent investments in laboratories also were reported.

Roads for Trucks — An editorial in The Prairie Farmer for October 31 says: "We have frequently called attention to the crowding and destruction of improved highways by motor trucks and buses, which pay in taxes only a fraction of the cost of repairing the damage which they do to the roads. Here is a suggested solution offered by President C. H. Markham of the Illinois Central Railway: 'If the State builds highways for passenger traffic, and then is kept busy and broke maintaining those highways, because they are

destroyed by heavy motor-truck traffic, the time will come soon, I believe, when the State will construct roads for truck traffic alone and see that the trucks pay for them out of earnings. When that time comes only the responsible operators will be able to continue in the business of motor-truck and bus transportation, for the vehicle operated as a common carrier on the highways must be regarded as a common carrier under the laws and be controlled by State and interstate commerce commissions just as the railroads are so controlled and regulated.' If that is the solution, the sooner we undertake to apply it the better. Present conditions are fast growing intolerable."

Wool Prices A Mercer, Pa., dispatch to the press of November 3 states that bids for the 65,000 pound wool pool of the Mercer County Sheep Growers' Association have been rejected as too low. Bids made in July also were turned down. The pool is the largest ever gathered in this region.

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

1 Alston H. Garside, director of cotton information service, Merchant's National Bank of Boston, writes from Manchester, England, to the Journal of Commerce for November 5: "During the two weeks since my arrival in England I have talked with some seventy-five or 100 leading members of the Lancashire cotton trade and spinning and weaving industry, and several bankers, and practically all of them have expressed extremely unfavorable opinions regarding the cotton crop reports of the United States Department of Agriculture....This subject seems to be uppermost in the minds of the great majority of the members of the trade. Most of those on whom I have called opened their conversation with me by some question or comment concerning the reports in which they clearly showed their antipathy toward them. They asserted in the strongest terms that the reports are detrimental to their business and expressed the hope that they will either be reduced in number or discontinued entirely next year. ...."

2 An editorial in The Florida Times-Union for November 3 says: "Cotton growers, it is asserted, stand to lose millions of dollars because of crop reports issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. Cotton prices dropped alarmingly immediately following the latest report of cotton crop estimators, who 'estimated' recently that the cotton yield this year will reach 15,226,000 bales. These reports are Government 'estimates' that are made by authority of the Department of Agriculture, acting under the law, of course. But there is no law that can assure the accuracy of these 'estimates,' and if they are grossly misleading they can do nothing but harm....Secretary of Agriculture Jardine undoubtedly is sincere. He shows that he wants to render good and efficient service. But he has taken the responsibility for an office in which for years the crop reporting system has been in vogue. Is it possible that he is being hoodwinked into believing that all those concerned with the crop estimating work are entirely trustworthy, or that they are not afflicted with official dry rot, by reason of which system, rather than efficiency, is too closely adhered to, and that this accounts, to a certain extent, for the unsatisfactory crop 'estimate?'....Granting all this, but what about the great injury being done to tens of thousands of growers of cotton, citrus fruits, wheat, and other crops that are inaccurately, or incompetently, 'estimated' from time to time by the Department of Agriculture? Are the losses sustained by the growers, due to crop 'estimates,' to be held as of less account than the crop reporting branch

of the Department of Agriculture? A vote of the people, if that were possible, unquestionably would decide in favor of the growers, let happen what may to a crop reporting system that seriously is at fault."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Nov. 5: Chicago hog prices closed at $12, for the top; bulk of sales $11. to $11.75; beef steers choice $13.50 to $15.35; good $10 to $13.75; medium $7.75 to $10; common $3.50 to $7.75; heifers, good and choice $7 to $11.50; medium and common $5 to $7; cows good and choice $5.25 to $8.50; medium and common $4 to $5.25; canners and cutters $3 to $4; vealers, medium to choice $9 to $12.25; heavy steers, medium to choice $5 to $3.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $13.75 to $15.35; yearling wethers, medium to choice $10 to $13; fat ewes, common to choice $4.75 to $8.25; feeding lambs $13.50 to $15.50.

Northern sacked Round White potatoes brought $3.50 to $3.75 per 100 pounds on the Chicago carlot market and $3.50 to $3.75 f.o.b. Minnesota points. New York Baldwin apples $4.50 to $5 per barrel in New York City and $4 f.o.b. Rochester. Eastern Yorks ranged $3.50 to $4.50. New York Danish type cabbage sold $28 to $40 in leading markets and $22 to $26 f.o.b. Rochester. Virginia Yellow varieties of sweet potatoes sold mostly at $3.75 to $4.75 per barrel in city markets; $3.75 to $4 f.o.b. Best New York and Midwestern Yellow onions ranged $2.50 to $3 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers and $2.25 to $2.75 f.o.b.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 50¢; Boston 50¢; Chicago 49 1/4¢; Philadelphia 51 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted Nov. 4: No.2 red winter Chicago $1.70 1/2; St.Louis $1.68 to $1.72; Kansas City $1.68. No.2 hard winter, Chicago $1.61; St. Louis $1.63; Kansas City $1.60 to $1.64. No.2 mixed corn Chicago 84 1/2¢; Kansas City 86 1/2¢. No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 76 to 81¢. No.2 yellow corn, Chicago 85 1/4¢; St. Louis 83¢. No.3 yellow corn, Minneapolis 87 to 91¢. No.2 white corn, Chicago 85¢; St. Louis 84¢. No.3 white oats, Chicago 40¢; Minneapolis 35 1/4¢; St. Louis 39 3/4¢. No.2 white oats, Kansas City 39 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 52 points, closing at 19.93¢ per lb. New York December future contracts advanced 54 points, closing at 20.48¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads	Average closing price	Nov. 5,	Nov. 4,	Nov. 5, 1924
	20 Industrials	157.67	158.05	105.11
	20 R.R.stocks	104.37	105.13	90.80

(Wall St. Jour., Nov. 6.)

- - -

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 33 Section 1 November 7, 1925

CIVIL AVIATION An editorial in The New York Times to-day says: "Of the major recommendations made by the Hoover committee to promote civil aviation, after six months spent in investigating conditions here and in Europe, the first, and by far the most important, is that Congress enact an aeronautic law.....If the Government does not extend a helping hand, call it indirect subsidizing if you will, civil aeronautics will never get the free use of its wings. Capital will not be invested, commercial hazards will not be taken, and the general public will not have faith in the future of aviation. Flying without Government inspection and licensing, without provision for airways and air fields that may be used by planes, as channels and harbors are used by surface ships, will always be hazardous.....Other major recommendations are constructive rather than regulative in character: for a Government program or policy to allow the building up of civil aeronautics; the turning over of Government non-military activities in the Postoffice, Agricultural and Commerce Departments to private agencies by live-and-let-live contracts, and lower insurance rates. Direct subsidies are opposed. They are a wet blanket upon enterprise. Moreover, the American people will have none of them. The committee remarks that European transportation companies, though subsidized, are not self-supporting. It is urged that the Government carry on fundamental research work, but without competing in construction. Why not? The Government does a great deal of research work for agriculture, forestry and even commerce. An important recommendation is that the international air navigation convention be ratified. The general subject is now so much in the public mind, because of the flight round the world by army aviators and owing to vigorous agitation for reorganization and reform of military aeronautics, that Congress can not fail to be impressed by the Hoover report. Constructive legislation may confidently be expected."

IDAHO POTATOES A Boise dispatch to the press to-day says: "Idaho farmers this year are reaping a rich harvest from their potatoes due to the shortage of production in other regions and to the freezing weather which has done considerable damage to production outside this State. The Idaho acreage is but little increased over last year, but the yields will exceed those of 1924. One Rupert, Idaho, grower last week received a check for $24,000 representing the returns from 8,000 bushels of potatoes, the product of 35 acres."

GRAPE TRANSPORTATION The present shortage of refrigerator cars on some of the western railroads was attributed yesterday by G. W. Luce, freight traffic manager of the Southern Pacific Railroad, to the unusual demand in eastern markets for juice grapes which has caused many growers to ship grapes for juice purposes which would have ordinarily been made into raisins. It is estimated that 22,000 cars of raisin grapes moved as juice grapes over all lines up to October compared with 13,000 cars of raisin grapes for the entire season of 1924. The late ripening of grapes, in the opinion of Mr. Luce, has also been a factor. (Press, Nov. 7.)

Section 2

Farmers' Market

A communication from Burlington, N.J., to The American City Magazine for November says: "A well-regulated, open-air farmers' market, conducted on a site leased for the purpose by the Burlington Common Council, has supplanted the old unsupervised market on the city's main street, as the result of a movement initiated by the local Chamber of Commerce. This city, located in one of New Jersey's most productive agricultural counties, has long been the site of a farmer's market, but in recent years the popularity of the institution was steadily declining. Some of the principal reasons for this condition were: the increasing street traffic and the fact that the market spread over two particularly long street blocks, made marketing a time-losing process; farmers could not be sure of securing their chosen positions in the market from day to day; and, in the absence of regulations, farmers were racing each other to the market, within a few years changing the opening time of the market from mid-afternoon to early daylight. From the city's standpoint the unregulated street marketing had become a nuisance in that it caused unnecessary traffic congestion and increased fire hazards. These facts were outlined by the Chamber of Commerce in its plea to the Common Council for the establishment of a properly supervised market place. After seeking the advice of the State Bureau of Markets and the County Board of Agriculture, as well as consulting with the farmers themselves, the council passed an ordinance creating a farmers' market. Conforming with the terms of this ordinance, a plot of ground, on which spaces were marked off for the farmers, was rented, a marketing director was employed, and a set of regulations governing the conduct of the market was drawn up at a conference between the Council, representatives of the two agricultural agencies previously mentioned, and the farmers....The new market has so far been an outstanding success. The number of buyers has increased, and many farmers who previously sought other outlets for their products are now using the market."

Foreign Trade

The excess of our exports over imports in the calendar year which ends sixty days hence, the "favorable trade balance" as it is sometimes called, seems likely to approximate 600 million dollars. The foreign commerce of the United States usually shows, says the Trade Record of the National City Bank of New York, an excess of exports over imports amounting to several hundred million dollars. Prior to the World War, when our exports were exceptionally heavy, the largest excess of exports or "favorable balance" was 666 million dollars, in the fiscal year 1908. With the opening of the war the excess of exports crossed the billion dollar line in the fiscal year 1915, was 3½ billions in 1917 and over 4 billions in 1919, then receding to the pre-war custom of keeping within the billion dollar line. In the calendar year 1922 our favorable balance was 719 millions, in 1923, 5[illegible] millions, and as above stated, seems likely to be about 600 millions in the calendar year 1925. Latest available figures of the commerce of the principal countries of the world, says the Trade Record, indicate that the United States has a larger "favorable balance" than any other country. Trade reports of 50 principal countries for the calendar year 1924 show that 26 of the 50 had in that year an excess of imports over exports, while 24 showed an excess of exports over imports. Most of the countries whose figures show an excess of imports are in Europe, and nearly all of those countries whose exports exceed imports are in America, Oceania and Africa.

France's American Trade

France's trade with the United States is growing in value as regards imports but shows a decrease in exports, according to French official trade figures for the first eight months of the present year. These figures indicate that France imported 3,720,106,000 francs worth of goods from the United States as against 3,668,785,000 francs during the same period last year. However, the United States is still at the head of those countries exporting goods to France, the second place being held by Great Britain whose exports to France for the period January 1 to August 31 of this year totaled 3,166,187,000 francs as against 3,217,280,000 francs for the corresponding period last year. Ananalysis of the figures representing France's exports shows however, according to advices received by the Bankers Trust Company of New York from its French information service, that the United States holds only the fourth place on the list of countries importing goods from France, coming after Great Britain, Belgium and Luxemburg and Germany, with purchases having a total value of 1,931,902,000 francs for the first eight months of this year, as against 2,144,194,000 francs for the corresponding period in 1924.

Grain Trading

An editorial in the Weekly Kansas City Star for November 4 says: "The Kansas City Board of Trade has chosen an excellent committee to execute the policies recently adopted by grain exchanges in general to make more stable the trading in grain. These policies are in pursuance of the admonition from Secretary Jardine of the Department of Agriculture, who would be reluctant to impose Government regulation, but nevertheless has insisted on more effective private control as the only alternative to Federal intervention. It is admittedly difficult to make exact rules for grain trading, especially trading in futures. It is not easy sometimes to draw the line between normal trading--which is speculative in many instances--and excessive speculation. But abrupt and extreme fluctuations in prices, when they occur without any change in present or prospective supply and demand conditions, are regarded as indicative of artificial manipulation, and the exchanges have undertaken to prevent or check these extremes of the market. On their own account, and even before they were admonished by the Department of Agriculture, they undertook, and largely succeeded, in preventing 'corners.' There is neither the opportunity nor the inducement there once was to effect combinations that might at once demoralize the market and ruin competitive dealers. The exchanges have the authority to step in, in certain circumstances, and declare a basis of settlement. Now they have gone farther and provided means for limiting daily fluctuations in emergencies. Whatever makes for stability of grain trading not only is advantageous to the business itself, but serves to enhance public confidence in the exchanges, which furnish indispensable facilities for the handling of grain products."

Instruction for Immigration

A Montreal dispatch to the press states that according to an announcement from London, the first of four training centers, two of which will train young men for agricultural work in the Dominions, has been opened at Birmingham by the Ministry of Labor. The overseas training course will be restricted to young unmarried men willing to take up work on the land in one of the Dominions. The training centers are the result of cooperation between the Ministry of Labor and the Overseas Settlement Committee and if the experiment is successful the work may be extended.

Irish Export Trade

An editorial in The Scottish Farmer for October 24 says: "All is not well in the sister isle. In the Free State the inhabitants have got what they wanted politically, but indications are not absent of a consciousness that something may have been lost. The pressure of Danish competition in the British market is being felt, or, at any rate, realized as never before, and a new recess committee has been endeavoring at first hand to find out why the Dane is increasing his hold on the British market while the Irishman is losing it. A formidable supplement, entitled 'Agriculture,' has been issued with The Irish Times of 13th inst. In it the story of this committee's visit to Denmark is told. The net result is set forth in a series of special articles whereof the refrain is: All recent statistics point to one momentous fact; in the British market Denmark is gaining ground and Ireland is losing it. The secret is said to lie in the fact that every Dane regards himself as a national asset; in hard work and an enlightened outlook, and in the treatment of agriculture as a progressive science. Denmark is years ahead of Ireland in the use of electrical power, in the breeding of cattle, in the production of milk, in the standardizing and marketing of all the produce of the farm. The schoolmaster has been the organizer of the formidable attack which Denmark has made upon the British market. Great Britain, this Irish newspaper says, is not merely the Free State's best, she is her only customer. Without the outlet for her produce in Great Britain the Free State would be as dead as the moon. There has been a big decrease in exports of cattle from Ireland to Great Britain during the last completed year. While the quality of her livestock is deteriorating (we do not say so, but The Irish Times does) and Denmark is ousting her bacon, eggs, and butter in the British market, Canada is making a steadily increasing assault on the former monopoly enjoyed by Ireland in the British cattle trade."

Meredith on Farm Situation

Edwin T. Meredith, former Secretary of Agriculture, delivered an address recently before officials of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Extracts from this speech are made in The Wheat Growers Journal for November 3, which quotes him as saying: "The welfare of agriculture deserves the very best unprejudiced thought. To get a correct picture of the situation we must view the farmer in a threefold capacity: first, as a laboring man, in that he does much of his own work; second, as a business man operating a fairly large plant, in which he invests money for equipment, supplies, labor of other men, etc., from all of which he hopes to receive a profit; and third, as a real-estate speculator, inasmuch as he is a large owner of land. As a laborer he receives very much less per hour than other laborers, since the going wages on farms have been and are less than wages paid for labor in cities. The farmer could buy labor to do the actual work he does for less than is paid labor in the cities, so it is evident that as a laborer he is not well paid. As a business man he has made no money. My belief is that, on the whole, farming as a business has not paid. The farmers of the United States are headed for peasantry, not in five or 10 or 20 years, but eventually, if the same processes long continue as have operated since the Civil War. As a real-estate speculator the farmer has made money, but the opportunity for speculation has largely disappeared...."

Potash Industry Credit

An Associated Press dispatch from New York November 6 states that the removal of the British embargo on loan floatations has cleared the way for a $50,000,000 international loan to the German potash industry, in which New York will participate. A $50,000,000 loan for the German

potash syndicate, negotiated by J. Henry Schroder & Co., will be one of the first foreign bond issues offered in London since the lifting of the ban. Approximately half the bonds will be placed on the New York market and the remainder divided between London and the continent.

Texas Road Deals

An Austin dispatch to the press of November 6 states that as the culmination of an investigation of contracts let by the highway commission appointed by Gov. Miriam A. Ferguson, Attorney General Dan Moody filed suit November 5 for cancellation of more than $1,700,000 in road contracts The suit was aimed at the American Road Company.

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for November 6 says: "Word now comes from Washington to the effect that officials in the Department of Agriculture have become convinced that it would be a good thing for the them to discontinue bi-monthly reports on the condition of the cotton crop and that they are about to the point of making appropriate recommendations to Congress when it assembles. An exception is apparently to be made of the later months of the season, but in general protests about the frequency of these reports during the past season or two appear to have found response in official quarters. Criticisms of the crop reports of the Department of Agriculture have not been limited to their frequency, however, and it may be taken for granted that discussion of the matter this winter in Washington will not be so limited. It is seriously questioned in a good many minds, even in Washington apparently, whether or not the predictions of the earlier months ought not to be discontinued altogether, and some go so far as to suggest that the condition estimates ought to go by the board. This whole situation indicating, as it seems to do, that our system of crop reporting, particularly so far as it has to do with the cotton crop, is to be a topic of rather unusual concern this year would be of much more interest if there were anything in the nature of definite evidence that a well informed and constructive attitude would be adopted by those who control the destinies of the reports in question. It is, however, to a certain extent encouraging at least that in some quarters not heretofore thought to be willing even to consider such a step belief is growing that the Government ought to go out of the predicting or guessing business altogether. True, there are those still who worry a good deal about what private estimators would do were the Government to desert the field. The most obvious and, incidentally, a most convincing answer to that question is to be found merely in the recollection that official reports have always been wide the mark, and in more recent years are about as often in error in one direction as in the other. In these circumstances it is difficult to understand what protection they give either to the producer or to anyone else. Neither this excuse nor any other can justify the Government in continuing its reports as they are now constituted. It would be unfortunate if advantage is not taken of the existing state of feeling about crop reports to effect some really constructive reform."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Nov. 6: Pennsylvania sacked Round White potatoes ranged from $3.65 to $4.85 per 100 pounds in eastern markets. Maine bulk green Mountains $4.15 to $4.45 in New York City and $3.95 to $4.05 f.o.b. Presque Isle. New York and midwestern Yellow onions ranged 10¢ to 50¢ higher at $2.50 to $3. sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers and $2.50 to $2.75 f.o.b. Virginia yellow varieties ranged $3.75 to $4.75 per barrel in leading markets and $3.75 to $4 f.o.b. Cabbage around $3 to $8 per ton higher. New York Danish type sold at $25 to $40 in leading eastern markets and $20 to $26 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Baldwin apples brought $5 to $5.25 per barrel in New York City and mostly $4 f.o.b. Rochester. Michigan and New York Baldwin apples sold at $4.50 to $5 in Chicago. Pennsylvania Stayman Winesaps $4.75 to $5 per barrel in eastern city markets.

Chicago hog prices closed at $12 for the top; bulk $11 to $11.75; beef steers choice $13.50 to $15.35; good $10 to $13.75; medium $7.75 to $10; common $5.50 to $7.75; heifers, good and choice $7 to $11.50; cows, good and choice $5.25 to $8.50; medium and common $4 to $5.25; canners and cutters $3 to $4; vealers, medium to choice $9 to $12.25; heavy calves, $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $13.75 to $15.50; yearling wethers, medium to choice $10 to $13; fat ewes, common to choice $4.75 to $8.25; feeding lambs, medium to choice $13.50 to $15.50.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 50¢; Boston 50¢; Philadelphia 51¢; Chicago 48 1/2¢.

Closing grain prices quoted November 6: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.48 to $1.75. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.67; St.Louis $1.70 to $1.71; Kansas City $1.67 1/2. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.58 1/4; St. Louis $1.62; Kansas City $1.59 to $1.64. No.2 mixed corn (old) Chicago 84¢; Kansas City 85 1/2¢; No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 74 3/4 to 79 3/4¢. No.2 yellow corn (old) Chicago 84 3/4¢; St. Louis 84¢; Kansas City 87 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn (old) Chicago 84¢; Minneapolis 87 3/4¢. No.2 white corn Chicago 84 1/2¢; St. Louis 84¢; Kansas City 86¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 39 3/4¢; Minneapolis 35¢; St. Louis 40¢. No.2 white oats Kansas City 39 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 4 points, closing at 19.97¢ per lb. New York December future contracts advanced 4 points, closing at 20.52¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads	Average closing price	Nov. 6,	Nov. 5,	Nov. 6, 1924
	20 Industrials	159.39	157.67	104.06
	20 R.R. stocks	103.90	104.37	93.40

(Wall St. Jour., Nov. 7.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 34 Section 1 November 9, 1925.

HOOVER ON NATIONAL CONDITIONS

Prosperous conditions prevailing in most sections of the country during the last year made possible highest standards of living in all history, according to Secretary of Commerce Hoover, who made public November 7 excerpts from his forthcoming annual report to Congress. "Taking the Nation at large," said Secretary Hoover, "the outstanding features of the fiscal year were: The high rate of production, consumption and exports, high wages, the absence of any consequential unemployment; continued growing efficiency in management and labor; continued expansion in application of scientific discovery, in such fields as electric power and light, the gas engine and radio, There were industrial patches where progress lagged, as in the New England textile industry, some sections of the agricultural industry and the bituminous coal industry. Nevertheless the standard of living of the country as a whole was the highest in our history, and, therefore, the highest in all history."

Secretary Hoover reported marked progress toward the restoration of agriculture to a pre-war condition. "Advances in prices of agricultural commodities, together with a large volume of production and marketing, caused the farm income to reach a greater total in the crop year 1924-25 than in any year since 1920-21," said Mr. Hoover. "Price advances were very pronounced in the case of the various grains. Some weak spots continue, but the general situation is much improved. September forecasts indicate that the aggregate output of all crops during the present year will be about 6 per cent smaller than last year, but this will probably not adversely affect farm communities, since it has been just about offset by advances in agricultural prices. As a result of the successive rises in the prices of cotton grains and animal products during the past three years, the agricultural industry has now reached a better adjustment with other industries than at any time since the war."

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN BRITAIN

A London dispatch to the press of November 8 states that foot and mouth disease among livestock, which is rapidly becoming a serious menace to rural England, has now caused the postponement of the opening meet of the Quorn Hunt, whose annual recurrence is a red-letter date for English huntsmen. The Ministry of Agriculture has broadcast special warnings to farmers. Experts say the spread of the disease is largely due to the slowness of farmers in reporting illness among their stock.

FRENCH TO RAISE COTTON IN SOUTH PACIFIC

A Paris dispatch to the press of November 8 states that a party of ninety-six farmers and agricultural engineers from Lille and other districts of Northern France, will sail from Marseilles on November 12 to carry out practical experiments in cotton growing on a large scale in New Caledonia, in the South Pacific Ocean. Other parties will follow soon. Experts believe that climatic and hydrometric conditions there are particularly suited for cotton. The expedition has been organized by a cooperative association in Lille to free French mills from the complete dependency upon foreign cotton growers they are under to-day.

Section 2

Bakery Merger and the Farmer — An editorial in Farm, Stock and Home for November 1 says: "The great bakery mergers, now either in process or completed, may eventually have a bad effect on wheat prices. One of the arguments used to interest the public in the purchase of stock in these mergers is the advantage of buying flour in immense quantities; that concentrated buying will naturally force millers to price concessions in order to keep their plants in operation. The milling trade papers are all very much concerned over the situation, realizing the power that a combine of users of flour will have over the manufacturers. If the bakery combines go through, it seems logical to assume they will have to be met by similar combinations of the millers. In this event, where will unorganized wheat growing and selling land the producers? The methods pursued in forming the bakery combines is to purchase bakeries outright, issuing stock in the company in payment. There is no law, nor do we think it possible, under the Constitution, to enact any that can prevent this. The same method can be pursued in bringing about one or several combinations of millers. Now is the time for the two and a half million wheat growers in this country to do some hard, fast thinking and evolve some means of meeting a situation where both the mills and the main consumers of flour will be thoroughly and efficiently organized."

Business Conditions — Dun's Review for November 7 says: "After the favorable developments in October, a new month has opened with a further acceleration of business activity. The forward movement has been steadily gaining momentum, as reports and statistics have demonstrated, and the sustained and orderly advance has strengthened sentiment throughout the country....."

Distribution Conference — A concerted attack by business men upon waste in business will be opened at a general meeting of the national distribution conference to be held in Washington, December 15 and 16, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. The call for the meeting is issued to-day. More than two hundred manufacturers, wholesale and retail merchants, economists, editors, advertising experts and representatives of trade associations and organizations, will weigh the methods by which transactions aggregating upward of $50,000,000,000 annually in the United States, as variously estimated, are carried on. They will attempt to point out the practices which are unethical and economically unsound, constituting major sources of waste, and outline methods by which they may be eliminated. The six surveys, each covering an important aspect of distribution, have been undertaken by six special committees of representative character. The subjects with which they deal and their chairmen are:--"Collection of Business Figures," Owen D. Young; "Trade Relations," A. Lincoln Filene, Boston; "Market Analysis, Advertising and Advertising Mediums," Stanley Resor, President of the J. Walter Thompson Company, New York; "Expenses of Doing Business," Robert R. Ellis, Hessig-Ellis Drug Company, Memphis; "Methods of Distribution," L. D. H. Weld, Director of Research, Swift & Co., Chicago; "General Conditions Affecting Distribution," G. S. Brown, President, Alpha Portland Cement Co., Easton, Pa. The first survey is intended to lay bare the conditions which result in a business boom and slump, which have been characterized by Secretary Hoover as one of the most prolific sources of national waste. It will disclose what statistical information is necessary to stabilize business and act as a check upon inflation and deflation in production, buying and selling resulting in most cases from lack of adequate information. The second survey brings to light unethical and uneconomic

practices in business and will be accompanied by recommendations looking to the setting up and enforcement of ethical and economic business standards. Specific questions to be dealt with include unfair cancellations and returns of goods, misrepresentations and other practices which result in appreciable losses the cost of which is eventually borne by the consumer. The third survey outlines the economic function of advertising in distribution in bridging the gap between production and consumption. The fourth survey covers the wide range of costs that go to make up the expenses of doing business and account in large measure for the spread between the price received by the producer and that paid by the consumer. It will constitute, in effect, an analysis of the various items that make up the consumer's dollar. The fifth survey is an analysis of the various methods by which goods are transferred from producer to consumer and deals with wholesaling, retailing, house-to-house canvassing, chain stores and other forms of distribution. The sixth survey is a review of the legislation, both Federal and State, affecting distribution. It focuses attention especially upon the effect of the anti-trust laws upon trade association activities and collective trade efforts to improve distribution and bring about economic reforms in industry. The wide range of problems brought to light in these surveys will be submitted to the national distribution conference with a series of recommendations which will form the basis of discussion and will serve as a definite plan of campaign, national in scope, to be conducted by business for the elimination of waste in distribution.

Intensive Agriculture

An editorial in Providence (R.I.) Journal for November 6 says: "The coming generation of farmers will produce more foodstuff than the present one is able to. If we did not believe that we would despair of the progress of agriculture. The boys' clubs competing for prizes for production from small holdings are setting an instructive example and their elders are taking up the stimulating idea. Ohio boasts of its forty-bushel club in the wheat region, the Midwest's corn belt has a hundred-bushel club and from Tennessee we hear of the ton-litter club. The Extension Review, published by the University of Tennessee, submits as a challenge to all hog raisers the record now established by a ton-litter member--seven spring pigs fed up to a combined weight of 2155½ pounds in 180 days, the time limit on the competition, an average of nearly 308 pounds per porker.....The Buckeye wheat grower is qualified for the forty-bushel club not by an aspiration to make a ten-acre farm yield four hundred bushels or better, but by doing it. And the membership grows from year to year. The high mark this year is 45.7 bushels. So with the hundred-bushel corn club. The goals may seem distant to the old-time farmer, but by the employment of modern methods they are attainable and there are new records every year to show it. The only question now is how far can this studied agriculture go beyond the marks the clubs have set. An Ohio farm that has been under cultivation for ni ninety years has recently reported wheat yields up to forty-eight bushels"

Rubber in Amazon Valley

Rubber production in the Amazon Valley of South America, which was the original home of the forest tree that is now principally nurtered in the plantation of British East India, can be brought up to a very high mark, the Commerce Department declared November 6, in outlining results of a special study in the area. There are 300,000,000 rubber-bearing trees in the Amazon country, most of which were allowed to fall back into neglect when the plantation rubber lowered prices, the department said,

and if crude rubber prices at New York remain at a level of 40 cents per pound, it was predicted that an output of upward of 44,000 tons a year would be attained.

Rural Sociology An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for November 6 says: "Is it immoral or unsocial to ask a child to perform any task within its capacity without pay? Should the relation between husband and wife, between parent and child, rest on the same basis as that of employer and employee? Silly as such an idea may be there are those who take it seriously. Here is a sample from an Iowa editorial: 'The reason for having children on the farm is because children can gather eggs, set hens, swill pigs and drive in the cows, frequently can milk and do other substantial work of the farm. And it is all unpaid labor. Secretary Wallace used to say that farm profits were measured in the unpaid labor of women and children.' This meets with the approval of an Iowa banker, who, in sending it to The Wall Street Journal, says, in part: 'It is not fair that two-thirds of the people of the nation should ask the farmers to furnish foodstuffs for them at less than it takes to produce it.' The same principle of law that made a father responsible for the care, maintenance and nurture of his children until their majority also gave him command over their services. A child rightfully looks to its father for every necessary of life; it is a wrong teaching that if he runs an errand he must be paid for it. It is also a wrong and unwholesome idea that a child should have no duties or responsibilities. Whether on or off a farm, he should be prepared to earn his own living in the future. It is a misstatement of fact to say that this is 'all unpaid labor,' or that 'farm profits are measured in the unpaid labor of women and children.' A family is supposed to be actuated by one principal purpose--that of owning the home and providing a comfortable living. People are about the same, whether they are on a farm or work in a factory, they have about the same necessities and the same aspirations. They work for the support of the home. There is no unpaid work in it. All share in the family living, whether it be much or little. The children are maintained and educated, and usually when they start life for themselves are given a parental lift. When a father dies, if anything has been accumulated it is divided between the survivors who through the days of accumulation shared in his earnings. This is not 'unpaid work.' It could not be unpaid work unless a man used it for himself alone and took the balance with him. This arrangement has worked fairly well for many centuries. It is best not to try to upset it until something better can be offered as a substitute. Nothing of that kind has yet been suggested, even by such an expert in clap-trap as the Des Moines Register."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture H. Parker Willis is the author of a lengthy analytical article entitled "Why Present Methods of Government Cotton Estimate is Nothing More Than Flimsy Guess-Work," in The Magazine of Wall Street for November 7. In this Mr. Willis says: "The desire to foresee the future is a trait which has been characteristic of the human race in all generations and has not lost any of its force in recent years. From decade to decade it assumes new forms, but in the business world it settled down a good while ago into the so-called 'forecast' system. In this, upon supposedly 'scientific' basis, attempt was made to foreshadow probabilities in connection with prices, production, distribution and exchange. To-day, we have an infinite variety of such forecasts, but among the oldest and most

firmly established of them all is that which the Government itself sanctions and issues in connection with our agricultural products. Moreover, in this Government system of forecasting, the most conspicuous place is occupied by a single product--cotton--which by its conditions of production and its relatively high value in small compass, as well as by the commanding position which the United States holds in the cotton world, is of unusual importance to the country as a current asset. Although in years past, the Government reports on cotton have often been called in question, dissatisfaction with them has perhaps never been so acute as it is to-day, nor has it originated in quarters of such undoubted influence and authenticity, as those which to-day are giving rise to complaint directed against the system itself. Within the past two months, a variety of experts, both foreign and domestic, have attacked both the personnel which is engaged in cotton reporting, the statistical methods employed, and the accuracy of the results announced to the world. Cotton manufacturers in convention assembled have transmitted protests against the entire system of reporting and have asked that it should be abolished. As usual, they have been sharply taken to task by agricultural interests which have retorted that the complaint of the manufacturers is due to their desire to see quotations lower in the market, whereas the Department of Agriculture is supposed to be working in the interest of the farmer. And yet, singularly enough, just at the time that such criticisms are being made, the Department of Agriculture has been violently attacked by southern interests which complain that its figures have been altogether too high, and that its work has resulted in giving to the farmer a good deal less income than he ought to have had. Just what is the basis of this controversy? The manufacturers and--so far as their opinion gets a hearing--the speculative community, argue that the Government ought not to give out 'guesses' on the crops or anything else, but that it ought to give out facts and facts only. In other words, the critics assert that they have nothing to say, so long as the Government promulgates only ascertained knowledge on any subject, and that what they object to is merely the publication of inferences....So the question recurs: Ought the Government to give its sanction to figures which contain so many possibilities of error and are probably so far off from the truth at the time they are given out? Practical men will usually answer this question by submitting it to the test of facts and experience. They will say that if in fact the Government has succeeded in coming very close to the figures and is better or more accurate than private persons it ought to go on doing the work, and if not, it should discontinue....And yet no human institution is perfect. If these errors were merely sporadic, they could be perhaps overlooked, for the sake of the benefit to be derived from the system itself. But how has the actual reporting result compared with the facts in the case? Fortunately, this question can be answered with very substantial accuracy because of the elaborate statistics on ginning and consumption of cotton which make possible a check after the close of the season....What may reasonably be expected is that the Government shall enable every man to be his own crop estimator. To that end it should continue to publish the numerous series of facts relating to weather, ginning, acreage, and a variety of other matters which it already puts out, and it should endeavor to make them even more inclusive and earlier than heretofore. It should get its acreage by a method as near approaching to census accuracy as is possible, and it should get its abandoned acreage in the same way, and much earlier, than at present. It might well increase the scope and detail of its weather reports. If to these facts

it should then add some reliable measure of insect infestation, designed to afford a basis of knowledge as to the percentage of damage inflicted by the boll weevil and in other similar ways, it would still further improve the character of the service it was rendering to the community. Why should we not put our cotton and other crop reports on this business basis and thereby eliminate the unfairness which grows out of the present method of Government guessing? As it stands, Government reports are of no benefit to anybody but the more reckless speculator or to the 'operator who has obtained, as some have from time to time, 'inside knowledge' of what is going on at Washington."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products For the week ended November 7: Most classes and grades of cattle and lambs declined in value on the Chicago market this week, while hog prices advanced mostly 25 to 50¢ although the extreme top at the close was the same as a week earlier. Chicago quotations as of November 7: Hogs, top $11.75; bulk $10.90 to $11.60; beef steers choice $13.50 to $15.35; good $10 to $13.75; medium $7.75 to $10; common $5.50 to $7.75; heifers, good and choice $7 to $11.50; medium and common $5 to $7; cows, good and choice $5.25 to $8.50; medium and common $4. to $5.25; canners and cutters $3 to $4; vealers, medium to choice $9 to $12.25; heavy calves medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $13.75 to $15.50; yearling wethers, medium to choice $10 to $13; fat ewes, common to choice $4.75 to $8.25; feeding lambs, medium to choice $13.50 to $15.50.

Potato markets irregular. Pennsylvania sacked Round Whites ranged $3.65 to $4.50 per 100 pounds in eastern cities. Maine Green Mountains, sacked and bulk $4.00 to $4.50 in New York and Boston; few sales at Presque Isle, Maine, brought $3.75 to $3.85. Northern Round Whites slightly lower at $3.70 to $3.80 on the Chicago carlot market; $3.40 to $3.50 f.o.b. shipping points. Cabbage prices slightly higher than last week. New York Danish type, $25 to $35 bulk per ton in eastern markets; mostly $23 to $25 f.o.b. Rochester. Eastern apple markets generally lower; western boxed stock about steady. Illinois and Michigan Jonathans ranged $6 to $6.50 in Chicago. Onion prices tend upward. New York Yellows sold at $2.75 to $3.25 per 100 pounds in consuming centers; $2.40 to $2.75 at Rochester shipping points. Midwestern Yellows ranged $2.50 to $3.00 in most eastern markets.

Grain market is steady. Wheat futures slightly higher than week ago on strong world markets but easier at close on reports drought broken in Australia. Cash wheat not following advance in futures account more liberal country offerings and slackened mill demand. Corn futures about one cent higher with wet weather in corn belt delaying harvest. Old corn scarce. Industries buying new corn but high moisture offerings selling at sharp discounts. Oats fractionally weaker.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 143 points during the week, closing at 19.85¢ per lb. New York December future contracts advanced 144 points, closing at 20.30¢.

Hay market slightly easier with demand slack account more favorable weather. Good demand in East for clover and clover mixed. Best grades selling most freely. Quoted November 7: No.1 timothy - Boston $26.50; New York $30; Pittsburgh $25; Cincinnati $25; Chicago $25.50; St.Louis $28.50; Kansas City $19; No.1 alfalfa - Kansas City $21.25; Omaha $19.50. No.1 prairie Kansas City $13.75; Omaha $14.75; Chicago $20; St.Louis $18.50; Minneapolis $16.50. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

- - -

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 35 Section 1 November 10, 1925

FUTURE TRADING ACT

The press to-day says: "Although submitting a brief in the Supreme Court as law officer representing the Government, arguing in support of the constitutionality of the Future Trading act, Solicitor General Mitchell, in a supplemental statement, expressed his personal conviction that the law was invalid. The brief and statement were filed in a test case in which H. P. Trusler, of Emporia, Kansas, a member of the Chicago Board of Trade, has challenged the constitutionality of the law, attacking particularly the section imposing a tax of 20 cents a bushel on all privileges or options. The constitutionality of the law was upheld in the lower courts. Explaining his action in filing the brief supporting the law and the statement expressing his embarrassment in doing so, Mr. Mitchell said the only other course open to him was to have confessed error and asked to have the lower courts reversed. He refrained from making such a motion, he said, in recognition of the fact that the Supreme Court might refuse to accept it and insist upon examining the question....."

HOOVER PLAN TO REGULATE RADIO

A national policy regulating the transmission of intelligence by radio that would give the Federal Government full power to control traffic and wide authority in policing interference, leaving to local communities a large voice in determining who are to operate broadcasting stations, was suggested yesterday by Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, at the opening session of the Fourth National Radio Conference. In emphasizing the interstate character of radio communication, Secretary Hoover declared that it is naturally and properly subject to Federal control, which he believes would be broadened as development in this field expanded and progressed. Secretary Hoover spoke approvingly of the Government policy that had prevented radio from falling into the hands of private monopoly and reiterated his opposition to levying a tax upon the listener. He asserted that the present policy "had avoided the pitfalls of political, religious and social conflicts in the use of speech over the radio; it has preserved free speech to this medium." Secretary Hoover divided the radio problems into two groups, the first including those that confront the industries concerned, and the second those that must be solved by private agencies working in cooperation, with the Government. (Press, Nov. 10.)

TAX REDUCTIONS

Cuts of more than $100,000,000 were made in the excise or nuisance taxes by the ways and means committee yesterday as it hurried along its work of writing the tax reduction bill. The tax of 5 per cent imposed on manufacturers of automobiles was slashed to 3 per cent, and the 2½ per cent tax on automobile parts and tires was repealed. Producers gave a pledge to the committee a short time ago that if these cuts were made the public would receive an equivalent benefit in their purchases of cars, parts or tires....." (Press, Nov. 10.)

Section 2

Brookhart and Agricultural Production

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for November 9 says: "If Congress will insure to farmers the cost of production, irrespective of the wisdom of any particular production, plus a profit of 5 per cent, all agricultural discontent will take unto itself wings and fly away. A grateful country can thank Senator Brookhart for originating this happy solution of the so-called 'farm problem.' No time should be lost in adopting it. According to the Price Current of Chicago, the plan is apparently fully hatched. It is to be presented to the new Congress and is, in effect, to form a Federal export corporation. Unkind people may at once exclaim 'Mc-Nary-Haugen,' meaning a much discussed measure which died on its parents in June, 1923. This is the same thing with a difference that makes it worth somebody's while. When the new baby is presented to Congress it will be with the modest request for a christening present of $150,000,000 from our inexhaustible Treasury. With this in hand the young corporation will begin to save the farmers all over again. Its duty will be to buy up surplus agricultural products, down to the last bean and the last egg, at a price to insure the farmer the cost of production plus a 5 per cent profit. The more the cost the bigger the profit. Never mind what the cost of production is, or what the crops? Plant all the marginal lands with any old thing and especially those which do not pay for cultivation. Will not a paternal government insure return of the cost together with a profit of 5 per cent? Plant, farmers, plant. Grow bananas in Maine. The Treasury pays cost of production. Plant without regard to markets. Double the present production if you can. The more you spend the more you will get back with a profit. There are some merely economic objections to this insurance plan, but they amount to nothing so long as the United States Treasury is solvent. Our merchandise exports last fiscal year were $4,860,000,000, of which agricultural products made up almost half. Foodstuffs alone amounted to nearly a billion dollars. That export corporation will have an enormous business on its hands. It will be loaded up with an enormous surplus right off the bat. But never mind, the country is rich. An obsolete instrument, nicknamed the Constitution of the United States, assures equal rights and equal opportunity. For two years the textile manufacturers have been in the dumps because they could not sell their goods for what it cost to make them. They will be entitled to another export corporation, to buy all their products at cost plus 5 per cent profit. Then new spindles can be installed and work speeded. All other enterprises will speed up and the heavens will be darkened with the smoke of industry. We can all be drunk with prosperity--for a little while. Never mind the headache in the morning. What does Brookhart care? It isn't his money."

Business Outlook by George E. Roberts

The outstanding feature of the business situation in the United States is the restoration of normal price relations between agricultural and other products, correcting a condition that has been the main cause of instability and seeming to afford the best basis for lasting prosperity that the country has had since the war, George E. Roberts, vice president of the National City Bank of New York, says in the current issue of the American Bankers Association Journal. "It is said by those who have misgivings as to the future that the general level of prices still is very high, that the amount of bank credit is greater even than at the height of the boom in 1920, and that these facts are indicative of an inflated situation," Mr. Roberts says. "It is suggested that the restoration of industry in Europe means the beginning of intense competition,

which is likely to put our price structure to a severe test, and may put such pressure upon our industries as to force both wages and prices down to lower levels.....If there is nothing in the monetary or credit situation to force a general price-movement to lower levels such a movement is not likely to occur. The general price level moves upward more easily than downward. Most people are willing to cooperate in a rising price movement, provided they can participate in it, but falling prices are unpopular, and can not go far in organized industry without meeting with resistance. The present system of prices is so firmly established and its various factors so interlocked that there is no prospect of its being lowered materially, except by influence which would operate slowly over a long period of time. The essential economic condition is that the equilibrium in industry and in price-relations be restored and apparently this is now in the way of being accomplished at about the present price level. Commodity prices average about the same now as two years ago, and the increase over a year ago is almost wholly in farm products, in which case it is significant of increased stability in the business situation. The commodity situation is practically free from price inflation, reckoning prices with relation to production costs. Business policies have been cautious over so long a time that inventories as a rule are comparatively low, and there is reason to believe that the regular turnover of trade is being handled with a smaller amount of bank credit in proportion to the volume of business than at any time heretofore. The general industrial and trade situation shows none of the signs of a culminating period of expansion.....I am impressed that we are not likely to have another period of deflation without first having a period of inflation. In other words, the next movement is more likely to be one of rising than falling prices, but if the present conservative sentiment is maintained in the business community, we may have a long period of good business with only moderate price fluctuations. The stability of prices and of commercial loans shows a healthy state of business."

Grain Growers Complain of Prices

A Chicago dispatch to the press of November 9 says: "It is contended that wages and prices in general industry remain higher than in agriculture, and efforts to bring around an equalization between commodities and agricultural products are not working out to the satisfaction of the farmer. On this basis of figuring it is seldom that values of the two interests are on the even level. Taking the general prosperous financial and business situation in connection with grain values, and the record speculative buying and rapid advance in values of many securities, there is an impression among those who have studied the conditions surrounding all interests that values of grain are due for an advance to bring their values more in line with those of other commodities."

Hog Supply and Prices

A Chicago dispatch to the press of November 9 states that a Chicago packer estimates that the hog supply from now on until May 1, 1926, will average about 10 per cent less than last year; after that period an increase of 10 per cent is expected. With low prices for corn and high prices for hogs, corn is to be put into hogs to make weight, and they are running about eight pounds heavier than last year.

Parcel Post Costs

An editorial in The Michigan Farmer for October 24 says: "The recently advanced rates for parcel post is causing much complaint among farmers. It has increased the costs in many instances to where it seems more than the traffic can bear. These advances have actually resulted in a lowering of the Government income from the parcel post business. As a consequence, the farmers and other users are being deprived of a service and the Government is losing a much needed revenue. Now come the railroads asking for more money for carrying this parcel post matter. It is little wonder, therefore, that some users of the system are becoming suspicious lest the service, as an efficient means of transporting goods from one point to another, may be destroyed. In all probability, the friends of parcel post transportation will be obliged to fight for it during the coming session of Congress."

Production

An editorial in The American Fertilizer for October 31 says: "In spite of all the assistance offered them--especially from Washington--the farmers still rely on their own individual judgment. Although the Department of Agriculture warned them against increasing the wheat acreage, they have planted substantially more than last year. If the world has an average yield next year there will be a surplus of wheat in this country which will be sold at prices unsatisfactory to the growers. Those who pose as leaders of the farmers in the South tell them that it costs 25 cents to grow a pound of cotton, and that the selling price should be 28 to 30 cents. But the actual cotton growers are so well pleased with a 20-cent price that current reports indicate the planting of fifty million acres of cotton next year. All of which must be disheartening to the purveyors of statistics and advice. It will never be possible to regulate farm production as factory production is regulated. Rain and sunshine and frost are variable factors, over which the farmers have little control. But in these days of cooperative buying and selling, which the farmers seem willing to try, it does seem that the farmers might do a little cooperative planting. Of what use is the highly organized crop reporting bureau at Washington if the farmers disregard the reports? And what hope is there for legislative relief for the farmers' financial troubles as long as they disregard all economic laws?"

Radio on the Farm

An editorial in The Ohio Farmer for November 7 says: "Have you noticed how many stations are catering to the farm folks these days in broadcasting programs that are of especial interests to farmers? At the same time, a great many radio manufacturers are advertising their receiving sets in the farm papers, realizing that the farm after all, is the most logical place for a radio set, since it has been proven that farm folks appreciate good entertainment just as much if not more so than do folks in the cities. The latest reports from Washington show a tremendous increase in the number of radio sets in use on the farms of the country and it has been this farm demand for good equipment that has prompted most manufacturers to build superior sets that will receive programs over long distances. The fellow in the same city with several broadcasting stations can get along with a smaller receiver, but when you're a long way off from the music, you must have a machine that will pick it up. Radio has done a great deal for the farm folks, but on the other hand, they have done a great deal to develop radio."

Speculation

An editorial in Price Current-Grain Reporter for November 7 says: "The word comes from Washington that Senator Caraway of Arkansas is demanding that Congress pass a law to put an end to 'gambling in cotton

and grain.' That there is gambling in cotton and in grain is unquestioned So, also is there gambling in real estate, in stocks, in lard, in eggs and in practically every other commodity that is bought and sold on the open market, as well as in horse racing and baseball and in the sense that gambling is staking something of value upon an uncertain event, every person in the country, including the President of the United States and the senator from Arkansas, is guilty. We buy land in California or Florida or Arkansas, not because we want to live on it or improve it for our posterity, but because we think we can sell it next month or next year and make a profit. Similarly, we buy stock in the X.Y.Z.. power company, not because we want to help manage its affairs or even because we want to use a lot of its "juice," but simply because we think the price of the stock will go up and we can make some money through selling it. Both transactions are business deals that are perfectly legitimate and honest, but when we substitute wheat or cotton for land or stock, by some sort of a hocus pocus, the thing becomes crooked and the participants ought to be sent to the penitentiary. It is indeed a strange world in which we are living and the most of us seem to have forgotten the injunction carried in the Biblical story of the man who saw a mote in his neighbor's eye."

Stock Market Situation

In its monthly review of business conditions the American Bankers Association Journal says of the stock market: "In October the market as a whole had risen some twenty points since mid-summer, and nearly fifty-seven points, or 75 per cent, since the end of October 1923 when the bull market began. Factors frequently mentioned as responsible for the renewed advances included the unusually favorable second and third quarter earning reports of many companies and the still better prospects for the fourth quarter, the possibility of further reduction in Federal tax rates, and the treaty signed at Locarno. There has been a growing disposition, however, on the part of financial observers to regard the renewed advances as marking the final stages of the bull market which has been in progress for two years. Market letters of a majority of the large banks and responsible brokerage houses have been advising customers of the approach of what seems to them to be the turning point in the movement of stock prices. It has been frequently pointed out that the rise in stock prices, particularly industrial issues, in the past two years, together with the marked boom in building construction and real estate trading, and the rapid growth of instalment buying in many lines, have all been distinct evidences of a kind of inflationary tendency resulting from the unusually low levels to which money rates fell as a result of the gold inflow of 1923 and 1924. The conventional way in which the inflationary effects of easy money are supposed to make themselves felt is through competitive bidding for supplies of commodities and labor, resulting in high commodity prices and wage rates. Many economists, both here and abroad, assumed that such would necessarily be the result of the immense gold inflow. Instead, however, the pressure to put idle funds to work has expressed itself in other ways, notably in the security markets."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Nov. 9: Chicago hog prices closed at $11.90 for the top; bulk $10.90 to $11.70; beef steers choice $13.50 to $15.35; heifers good and choice $7 to $11.50; common $5 to $7; cows good and choice $5.25 to $8.50; common and medium $4 to $5.25; canners and cutters $3.10 to $4; vealers, medium to choice $9 to $12; heavy calves, medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $14 to $15.75; yearling wethers, medium to choice $10 to $13.25; fat ewes, common to choice $4.75 to $8.25; feeding lambs, medium to choice $13.50 to $15.65.

Northern sacked Round White potatoes $3.60 to $3.80 carlot sales in Chicago and $3.40 to $3.75 f.o.b. New York and Pennsylvania sacked Round Whites ranged $3.65 to $4.35 in eastern city markets and $3.75 to $3.85 f.o.b. Rochester. Best New York and midwestern yellow varieties of onions sold at $2.50 to $3 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers and $2.50 to $2.75 f.o.b. Jobbing sales of New York Baldwin apples ranged $4.50 to $5.25 per barrel in eastern cities and sold mostly around $4 f.o.b. in Western New York. Large size Yorks from eastern States brought $4 to $5 per barrel. New York Danish type cabbage closed at a range of $25 to $40 per ton in eastern distributing centers and $23 to $25 f.o.b. Rochester.

Grain prices quoted November 9: No.1 dark northern, Minneapolis $1.46 to $1.70. No.2 red winter, $1.67 to $1.69. No.2 hard winter, $1.67 to $1.69. No.2 hard winter, Chicago $1.56; St. Louis $1.60 1/2. No.2 mixed corn (old), Chicago 86 1/2¢. No.3 mixed corn (old), Minneapolis 83 1/2 to 87 1/2¢. No.2 yellow corn (old), Chicago 86¢; St. Louis 85 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn (old), Chicago 86 1/4¢; Minneapolis 93¢. No.2 white corn (old) Chicago 86¢. No.3 white oats, Chicago 39 1/2¢; Minneapolis 34 3/4¢; St. Louis 39 1/2¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 49 1/2¢; Chicago 49¢; Philadelphia 51¢; Boston 49 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 17 points during the week, closing at 19.06¢ per lb. New York December future contracts advanced 6 points, closing at 19.43¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov. 9,	Nov. 7,	Nov. 8, 1924
20 Industrials	157.43	158.48	105.53
20 R.R.stocks	104.05	103.87	94.10

(Wall St. Jour., Nov. 10.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 36 Section 1 November 11, 1925

POTATO SITUATION A New York dispatch to the press to-day says: "The Irish potato is raising as much cain, almost, as the Irish revolution. With about 500,000 bushels of the tubers standing on tracks in the vicinity of New York, railroad embargoes got to work. Montreal reported the American Railway Association had notified Canadian railroads of an embargo on potato shipments to New York, Pittsburgh and Boston, effective at midnight last night. The American market, particularly the New York market, is glutted. Dealers say the Government report recently that the year's potato crop was 100,000,000 bushels short of last year started the rush to market. Prices started climbing. Producers put up the price and purchasers paid it. When the run for potatoes was at its height the price in New York was from $7.50 to $8 per hundred-pound bag. Potatoes came from Canada, from New York State, from Maine, Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. The tracks became piled with potatoes. Market men figure there are 814 car loads of potatoes in the vicinity of New York, with more coming. Each car holds about 650 bushels. Due to the glut the price has fallen within a week $1 to $1.50 per hundred-pound bag. Maine potatoes sold to-day for $6.15 per bag, while they were $7.50 a few days ago. A year ago potatoes sold for $2 to $2.50 a hundred pounds. It was said the price probably would continue low for the next few weeks, but that potatoes would not be cheap this winter, as the jam at New York comes from a sudden release of stocks and not excess of national supply."

A Boston dispatch says: "An embargo on all potatoes coming into the Boston market was placed in effect yesterday by the Boston and Maine Railroad. Potatoes on cars rolling prior to November 9 will be admitted. The embargo applies to domestic potatoes as well as Canadian."

TAX LEGISLATION The House ways and means committee yesterday voted to slash almost $114,000,000 more from the annual Federal tax burden by repealing most of the excise and special taxes now in effect and cutting substantially the levy on automobiles. This completed the revision of rates in preparation for the drafting of a tax reduction bill to be presented to the House next month, and the committee estimated last night that it had approved reductions totaling $308,372,709, or slightly more than was proposed by the Treasury. The committee also approved the new surtax rates, for which a maximum of 20 per cent on incomes in excess of $100,000 already had been fixed. The present maximum is 40 per cent on incomes in excess of $200,000. Under the new schedule, no change in rates applying on incomes under $44,000 would be made, the reductions being effected by broadening to $10,000 each income breacket calling for rates between 15 and 20 per cent. (Press, Nov. 11.)

TURKEY MARKET A Portland, Ore., dispatch to the press to-day states that ten carloads of turkeys, the Thanksgiving pool of the Idaho Turkey Growers' Association, have left for Chicago. The price was forty-two cents a pound, the highest ever paid since the association was formed. Bids were received also from Omaha, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle packers.

Section 2

Burley Tobacco Marketing A Lexington, Ky., dispatch to the press of November 10 says: "No tobacco will be sold the coming season by the Burley Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association at auction or over loose-leaf floors, and the established policy of 'orderly marketing' will be adhered to as in the past, according to an official statement. Arrangements have been made to finance the 1925 crop and the warehouses of the association will be opened at the regular time in December, to receive the members' tobacco. The advance will be the largest available based on a conservative loan value of the tobacco. It stated there is no thought of releasing any member of the Burley association from his contract, but on the contrary, 'every right accruing to the membership by reason of these agreements will be rigorously enforced.' The board asserts that the affairs of the association were never in better shape than now, that it has less tobacco on hand and owes less money than it did a year ago, that its credit never was better and that the 1925 crop is less than a normal crop."

Dairy Farming in Britain In two articles entitled "Dairy Farming Extraordinary," in Country Life, (London) for October 24 and 31, H. G. Robinson describes a successful experiment in the operation of a dairy farm on wheels. He says: ".....Having, in two years, laid down the entire farm to grass, as described in last week's issue, Mr. Hosier turned his attention to the tackling of dairy farming on a holding where practically no suitable buildings existed for the purpose. This is, of course, always a limiting factor in arable districts where sheep have been employed for generations for the purpose of eating off the green food and root crops in situ. The erection of new buildings on a farm exceeding 1,000 acres would be a very costly undertaking. In consequence, Mr. Hosier devised the plan of a portable cowshed, which could be used on the downs, somewhat on the lines of some New Zealand and Australian practices, and this constitutes the basis of his dairy farming system. Some have designated it ranch dairy farming, but, whatever nomenclature is used, it is safe to say that the system has no equal in this country and that it has fulfilled all the purposes demanded of it.....In conclusion, if one can picture a horse in a float or lorry setting out from the dairy loaded with concentrated food and milk churns, some of which contain water for the washing of milking utensils, and being driven on to some exposed downland about half a mile away, and at the end of two hours returning with full milk churns to the dairy, then one has visualized how one man has solved the problem of making profitable use of land which under other conditions would have lost a good deal of money during the past six years."

Farm as Liability A Denver dispatch to the press of November 10 says: "Ownership of a farm has become a liability, David T. Pulliam of Loveland, owner of fourteen small farms in Colorado, told an examiner of the Interstate Commerce Commission November 9 in the hearing on application of fifty-seven western railroads for a freight rate increase. Steadily rising taxes, labor costs and freight rates were blamed by Pulliam. He traced the increases in these costs from the time he came to Colorado in 1890. 'Now all a farmer thinks about,' he said, 'is to get enough money to pay taxes and labor and clothe his family.'"

Farm Surpluses An editorial in New York Commercial November 9 says: "W. I. Drummond, president of the American Farm Congress, has, through John W. O'Leary, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States,

addressed an appeal to the business men of the country for their cooperation in some plan that will enable the farmer to carry his surplus products or to market them on more advantageous terms. Any appeal which has more advantageous marketing for its purpose should command the support of the business men of all sections of the country, but when it comes to plans for carrying surpluses which might turn into heavy financial losses that is a horse of another color. If surplus products are to be carried and not marketed they should be carried upon the resources and the credit of those who produce them. A few years ago a bare proposal that surplus products be hoarded, or withdrawn, from the market by anybody would have raised a storm from Maine to Mexico, but we have passed that stage. It is now generally appreciated that over-production is an economic evil, and reasonable measures for protection against it are tolerated. In the farming industry over-production is not entirely a result of over-equipment, the output varies in both quantity and quality, and for various reasons, even when the acreage planted does not change. The problem of surplus production is, therefore, not to be met by allowing economic law to take its course and eliminate the marginal producers. It could easily happen that a bad year might eliminate too many producers and work a hardship upon the country as well as upon the industry itself. However, any remedy that is dependent upon outsiders, either groups of business men, individuals or the Government for the means to carry surplus products that might ultimately turn into a loss, would be worse than the disease. Any such scheme as that would naturally result in the producers breaking a leg to produce more and more, instead of in an effort to be more cautious with the next crop. Mr. Drummond's appeal is just a variation on the scheme to have the Government put up the money and take the risk in connection with surplus farm production. If the farmer can not work this problem out through his own cooperative he will have to be satisfied with things as they are....."

Manchester Cotton Outlook

Expectations of a larger cotton crop, both in the United States and in Egypt, has resulted in the development of a more favorable outlook throughout Lancashire, according to a cable received at the Department of Commerce from London. Manchester is now a buyers' market, said the cable, and there is some talk of the American section resuming full time. A decline in raw cotton values, said the report, has been followed by a decrease in cloth prices to a level more attractive to buyers. (Press, Nov. 9.)

Potato Production and Prices

An editorial in The Washington Post for November 10 says: "Nearly a third of a century ago Mayor Pingree, of Detroit, paved a pathway with potatoes to the gubernatorial chair in Lansing. Mayor Pingree urged the planting of 'spuds' on every vacant lot in the city of Detroit. He became known as 'Potato Pingree,' and his reputation was Nation-wide. Twenty-five years later in an address before the members of the National Press Club, Secretary Hoover urged the press to advocate planting of potatoes wherever a plot of ground could be obtained for the purpose. That was during the war, when potatoes were selling at retail in Washington at 10 cents a pound, or $6 a bushel. Secretary Hoover's appeal bore potatoes. Vines were seen growing in the front gardens as well as in the back yards of almost every city and village in the land. The winter following, in the potato districts of New York State, the price had dropped to 10 cents a bushel, with no buyers. Thousands of bushels were dumped in the

fields to rot, for in the lyrical language of Parker Hedges, poet of Wyoming County, 'no man can make potatoes good the second year from which they grew.' The potato farmer returned to normalcy, posies grew where potatoes once flourished, and prices became stabilized. Now comes a press dispatch from Idaho telling that a farmer of Moscow, in that State, has sold a crop of 8,000 bushels, raised on 35 acres, for $24,000, which is at the rate of $3 a bushel. One year ago this month the farm price in New York, Michigan and Maine was exactly 30 cents. All of which points to the probability that kartoffel salad, pomme de terre Parisienne and potatoes O'Brien will rank in price with terrapin a la Maryland and lobster Newburg in restaurants during the season of '25-'26."

Russia to Save Bison — The Russian Government is reported to have joined in the efforts to prevent the dying out of the race of European bison, cousin of the American buffalo, and to have set aside several hundred thousand acres of land in the Western Caucasus as a refuge for these rare animals. (Press, Nov. 8.)

University Research — A Princeton dispatch to the press of November 7 says: "The value of the new plan of study at Princeton, inaugurated last year, which permits each upper classman to go deeply enough into an independent branch of study to insure original work, already is evident to a marked degree in the department of biology, according to Prof. Edwin G. Conklin, head of the department and noted biologist. The question of the utility of the new system and whether its success warrants permanent adoption is constantly being argued in campus publications. In support of it, Professor Conklin revealed that two of his departmental students have made distinct contributions to what is known on the subject of sterility and fertility in plants by doing independent research work on the Burse Grandiflora, or Shepherd's Purse.....The object of the research of the two men has been to determine whether there are only two or whether there are more than two groups in the species of Burse Grandiflora which are 'self-sterile,' but which, when bred with a member of one of the other groups produce seed. After more than 100 cross-pollinations no third group could be found, and the results of the investigations, when complete, are valuable enough to be put on permanent record, in the opinion of Professor Conklin. 'Education is, in the main, habit formation, and when students have learned good mental habits, they can not only acquire additional information for themselves, but are in a position to be contributors to knowledge,' said Professor Conklin."

Waterways — An editorial in Milwaukee Journal for November 6 says: "Herbert Hoover, in a speech in Kansas City, outlined a great midwestern waterways program in two parts: the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence passageway and Mississippi River development. Mr. Hoover's support of these projects has been enthusiastically received in the Mississippi valley. The Minneapolis Journal says that though 'there is some danger of a clash between the two halves of what Mr. Hoover regards as a single and harmonious program there is, however, no good reason why these two far-reaching projects should not be pushed through to completion together.' The Minneapolis paper overlooks at least one good reason: The Lake States, ever favorable to sound waterway development, were very ready to go along with the Mississippi valley until they were brought up short by Chicago. They saw, at Chicago, such an outflow of Lake Michigan water as threatened not only lake levels but the St. Lawrence project itself.....The program can be

harmonious only if Mississippi River development is so planned that it will not wreck both the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence waterway. If Chicago and the valley cities insist on a 10,000 cubic foot per second ship canal as part of the 'harmonious program,' the Lake States must regretfully decline to participate. Let the valley cities join against Chicago, insure safety for the Great Lakes and help stop this threat against the St. Lawrence and harmony is likely to follow. Until then the Lake States are compelled to protect their already developed shipping--many times the tonnage that a Mississippi canal at Chicago can promise--and their St. Lawrence waterway."

Wheat on Waste Lands

An editorial in Modern Miller for October 31 says: "Improved methods of preparing land for the sowing of seed and the introduction of new methods of harvesting crops are going to make it possible to throw open new lands to wheat and will result in a large increase in the wheat acreage. C. C. Isley, Dodge City, Kan., in speaking at the recent national gathering of the Grain Dealers' National Association in Kansas City, said that the new grain areas are being developed on lands that formerly were waste, or used for cattle ranges. He claimed that this year more than a million acres of sod would be put into wheat. In the Southwest practically all of the old cattle lands are gone. Western Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, South Dakota and northern Texas, within the next six or eight years, will furnish an additional 10,000,000 acres of land to wheat. One factor that will help to make this possible is the combination harvester-thresher. This machine cuts, threshes and delivers wheat ready for market to wagons or trucks, all in one operation. It is possible for one man to harvest 35 acres a day. Mr. Isley says that this is a condition that Coolie labor can not compete with; this is a condition that Canada can not compete with, as in his opinion the combination harvester-thresher is not adapted to the wheat grown there. The new development along wheat growing lines is being reflected in the efforts of railroads to build new lines into the territory, the Burlington and Rock Island lines having made application for permission to extend their lines. The tractor has also revolutionized farming methods and one man with a tractor can handle the preparation of a much larger acreage in a shorter time than was formerly possible. The largest tractor market in the World is in the district west of Dodge City, Kan., and record-breaking sales were made there this year."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for November 10 says: "Washington's Crop Reporting Board has, to use a term expressive, if not elegant, been damned uphill and down this summer and autumn. Apparently the public has been disposed to hold it responsible for all the fluctuations in the cotton crop and price occasioned by the weather. Would it not be more businesslike to find fault with the law compelling the making of the reports as at present, and to seek the best way of amending it? Remember the board has its duties specifically laid out for it by Congress Until our lawmakers will differently, it must continue to follow the present practice and in 1926 it will be as much at the mercy of accident as in the past two years. It is the law that should come in for public criticism and not those whose conduct it dictates. A cotton boll matures within six weeks from the time the square forms. Therefore, the whole crop situation can be entirely made over after the first of September, as it has been in the past two seasons. It is futile to make an estimate of

production before the first of October at the earliest. A few figures will sustain this assertion.....Since the mid-October report there have been killing frosts in the Southwest. Whether the estimate of two weeks ago will be reduced or not depends upon whether the freezes found sufficient green cotton to affect the total. With every estimate the market must adjust itself to the changed conditions. In seasons when the change are considerable, as they have been in this year of surprises, somebody must get hurt. This year it was the growers and those who bought cotton early at higher prices. Bi-monthly reports double the market confusion. A two years' trial of them shows that there is no offsetting compensation to the trouble, confusion and loss that they occasion. The cotton trade has been quite voluble in its denunciation of, not an enemy, but of the Crop Reporting Board, operating under the directions of an existing law. It is time to change the practice, to tackle the source of the trouble itself, and that source is Congress."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Nov. 10: New York and Pennsylvania sacked Round White potatoes ranged mostly $3.85 to $4 per 100 pounds in eastern wholesale markets; $3.75 to $3.90 f.o.b. Rochester, N.Y., Maine Green Mountains $4 to $4.15. Virginia yellow sweet potatoes sold at $3.50 to $4.75 per barrel in eastern cities, low as $3 in Philadelphia. New York Danish type cabbage $25 to $40 bulk per ton in the East; $23 to $25 f.o.b. Western New York. New York and midwestern yellow onions $2.25 to $3 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers. New York Baldwin apples $4.50 to $5 per barrel in city markets and $4 f.o.b. Rochester.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.65 for the top; bulk $10.90 to $11.60; beef steers choice $13 to $15; good $9.85 to $13; heifers, good and choice $6.75 to $11.25; common and medium $4.75 to $6.75; cows, good and choice $5.25 to $8.50; common and medium $4 to $5.25; canners and cutters $3.10 to $4; vealers, medium to choice, $9.50 to $12.50; heavy calves $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $14 to $15.90; yearling wethers, medium to choice $10 to $13.25; fat ewes, common to medium $4.75 to $8.25; feeding lambs, medium to choice $13.50 to $15.65.

Grain prices quoted November 11: No.2 red winter, Chicago $1.66 to $1.68. No.2 hard winter St.Louis $1.60 1/2 to $1.61. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 87¢ to 88 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 87 to 87 1/4¢; St. Louis (new) 81¢. No.3 white corn Chicago 39 1/4 to 40¢. No.3 white oats St. Louis 39 1/2 to 39 3/4¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 46 points, closing at 19.52¢ per lb. New York December future contracts advanced 52 points, closing at 19.95¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov. 10,	Nov. 9,	Nov. 10, 1924
20 Industrials	151.60	157.43	105.91
20 R.R.stocks	103.23	104.05	93.55

(Wall St. Jour., Nov. 11.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 37 Section 1 November 12, 1925

RADIO CONFERENCE A report containing broad recommendations for the solution of major problems in every branch of radio endeavor was adopted at the concluding session yesterday of the fourth national radio conference. Containing resolutions for legislation concerning radio regulations, for sharply reducing the present number of broadcasting stations to relieve congestion and for the elimination of interfering elements in radio reception, the report was declared by Secretary Hoover, chairman of the conference, to be the most far reaching and constructive yet made....One of the most important actions of the conference, in Secretary Hoover's opinion, was its declaration that service to the radio listener should be the prime consideration in all efforts of the industry and in its regulation. He said no other industry had been brought up from its infancy with such an attitude. Under the resolutions adopted, no major alterations will be made in present wave-length assignments, and minor changes will be confined almost entirely to the field outside the broadcasting band. The legislative recommendations provided that abrogation of all radio legislation be vested in the Secretary of Commerce, with authority to appoint such advisory boards and committees as he might deem necessary that the doctrine of free speech be held inviolate; that monopoly in the industry be prohibited, and that broadcasting licenses be granted only to those who, in the opinion of the Secretary, would render beneficial service to the public or contribute to the development of the art.

The President, under the program, would be given authority to commandeer or discontinue all broadcasting stations in time of national emergency. Decisions of the Secretary of Commerce could be appealed to the courts. Station call letters would be recognized by law as property rights during the life of broadcasting licenses, which the Secretary could suspend or revoke when their holders did not live up to their terms. Further, the rebroadcasting of programs would be prohibited except by permission of the originating station, and the Secretary would be given power to enforce regulations against interference from radio sources, while foreign ships in American waters would be required to meet regulations set up by the department. (Assoc. Press., Nov. 12.)

RADIO FOR GERMAN COWS An Associated Press dispatch to-day from Strasbourg, Alsace, says: "The placid German cow, munching her bran mash in a stable on the right bank of the Rhine, soon may listen to the jazz music of an American band in New York, Pittsburgh or Kansas City. Rhineland dairymen have discovered that music not only soothes the cow, but also induces her to increase her milk supply. Recent tests with the phonograph, it is asserted, have shown increases of 6½ per cent in the quantity of milk given by musically aided cows. Now it is proposed to install radio loud speakers in the stables to give the cows a bit more of variety in their programs."

INTERNATIONAL TRADE A Berlin dispatch to the press to-day states that lengthy negotiations between the Nobel Company, of Great Britain; the Du Pont interests of America, the Dynamite Company, of Hamburg, and the Koeln-Rottweil Company, of Berlin, were concluded November 11, the German companies approving an agreement among the four groups for close technical cooperation, especially in regard to the exchange of patents and inventions.

Section 2

Canadian Immigration "Whilst immigration to Canada for the first part of the current year has not been all that might be desired, a certain measure of satisfaction is justified in the type of newcomer which the Dominion has welcomed. If the movement has not been as voluminous as previous years it has largely been directed into channels where it will be of the greatest benefit to the Dominion. Government statistics show that 65 per cent of the immigration to the Dominion from overseas in the first three months of the fiscal year and 64 per cent of that from the United States was agricultural. The trend is gratifying in view of the fact that future Canadian expansion largely hinges on agricultural development and that it is usually estimated that a settler placed on the land makes way for another in the various phases of Dominion activity providing for the farmer's multiform needs. No matter what the state of Canadian economics in other directions, agricultural opportunity always exists, both for the farmer and his helper. There are always advantageous openings for settlement and the demand for farm labor is never filled." (Agricultural and Industrial Progress in Canada, November.)

Cotton Market An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for November 11 says: "Our cotton market may soon wake up to an unpleasant surprise. This is that no matter what official and private estimates of the crop may be there is not likely to be any more cotton than is needed. On the 9th of September this newspaper called west Texas a great uncertainty and likened the western Oklahoma crop to chickens not yet hatched. Recent developments are proving the accuracy of the statement. It was in western Texas that the greatest increase in acreage was made, even though last year that area produced 1,200,000 bales. In the past two weeks there have been two or three heavy freezes in the Plains section of western Texas. The extent of the damage can not be estimated at this time but it was considerable and must cut down the ultimate figures of the Texas crop. ....Demand is increasing at home and abroad. The spinners' takings of 526,700 bales last week are something to make one think. Exports are increasing heavily over those of last year, which in turn were far above those of the preceding year. The world is making economic headway and cotton is one of the first staples to feel its effects. The final figures will probably show a take off somewhat from the indicated supply, with an increase in the demand. If this occurs there will be no heavy surplus to carry over into another year. Indeed, the adjustment is likely to be close."

Farm Profits An editorial in Farm and Ranch for November 7 says: "'Why should not farming pay?' Any person asking that question is undoubtedly convinced that it doesn't pay to produce food and fiber for the 80,000,000 to 85,000,000 people who live in cities and towns who must have something to wear and something to eat. Farming does pay. Some farmers make it pay more than others, but on the whole, the general average, considering the amount invested, is below the average of earnings of other industries. ....With everybody interested there are naturally thousands of people trying to solve the problems of the farm who know little about the matter and oftentimes suggestions are made that are but little less than libelous even though some contain a grain of truth. George Brownell, writing in the Dearborn Independent, has said some things that are well worth considering although he has absorbed some of Theodore Price's ideas of big business running incorporated farms. In one of his recent articles

Mr. Brownell says: 'The greatest kindness that can be done several million farmers in this country is to take them out of an employment where they can never succeed and put them on jobs that will pay them a regular wage sufficient to give them some of the good things of life.' It is true there are many incompetent and shiftless farmers and altogether too many landowners who hire other men to mine their land for what they can get out of it in a short period of time. Such men should not own land. It is contrary to the laws of Nature or of the Creator to destroy land fertility, for the soil was put there, not for this generation or the next, but for all generations to follow, and it is just as much a crime to rob posterity as it is to rob the living. Continuing, Mr. Brownell says: 'There are going to be fewer farms and fewer farmers in this country. And, despite this seeming contradiction of economic law, the price of even the better class of farm land will not greatly increase. The reason for this paradoxical situation which I predict is that farming is due to become a highly specialized business, capable of being adequately conducted on half or two-thirds the number of acres now under cultivation. A farm will be valued according to the profit it will show on the balance sheet.' It is undoubtedly true that there will be a great change in farming methods as well as in merchandising farm products. That change is already being made....."

Highways in South America

The Journal of Commerce for November 11 reports: "The program of highway construction now under way in Latin American countries forecasts a social and economic development unsurpassed in the history of those republics, according to members of the United States delegation to the Pan-American Congress of Highways, who returned to New York November 10. In the two months of their absence the delegates traveled more than 15,000 miles, inspecting the highways of Panama, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. H.H.Rice, chairman of the delegation, declared that the people of Latin America are more advanced in their understanding and use of the motor vehicle than is generally appreciated in the United States. He found motor cars generally used in every city and town visited by the United States delegation; also that the traffic jam on Florida avenue in Buenos Aires is as great as in New York or other principal cities in the United States."

Pennsylvania's Forests

An editorial in The Washington Post for November 11 says: "The State of Pennsylvania is preparing to make a great experiment in conservation; is getting ready to undertake a program of idealism and keep faith with its founder, William Penn, says Outdoor America. At the last session of the legislature there was passed an enabling act for a $25,000,000 bond issue to the end that many millions of acres of mountain, valley and cut-over land may be added to the State forests and put to work producing timber. Nothing like it ever has been attempted by any State of the Nation. It is possible that the loan can be submitted to the people at the coming election in November, dependent upon a decision of the Supreme Court, but whether the time is fixed for 1925 or later approval by the voters is regarded as almost assured. Pennsylvania contains approximately 28,000,000 acres, and its State owned forests aggregate more than 1,250,000 acres at the present time. The plan now is to add to them until one-fifth of the entire area shall be held by the Commonwealth, and this immense tract shall be dedicated to Nature and Nature's God; to trees, to the wild life that abides in the woods and to the profit and happiness of mankind."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

1 An editorial in The Florists Exchange for November 7 says: "A correspondent advises us that in response to his inquiry as to the exact scope of the conference to be held November 16 by the Department of Agriculture, that department has replied that it is 'intended by the Secretary to cover strictly the subject of bulbs the entry of which is restricted beginning January 1, 1926.' This is as might have been expected, and is of value mainly as a further indication that the discussion will be centralized and kept definitely specific. The department statement is however, less encouraging when it continues by saying that conditions will probably render it impossible for Secretary of Agriculture Jardine to be present; that Acting Secretary Dunlap will open the conference, and that thereafter 'the conduct of the conference will be in the hands of the Federal Horticultural Board.' How final this decision is we do not know, but we can say with conviction that if the forthcoming conference is conducted as was that of May, 1922, in which Secretary Wallace attended the opening session, then relinquished the chair to Doctor Ball, who in turn gave way to Doctor Marlatt, then, indeed, the whole affair will from the outset be characterized as inconclusive and unsatisfactory to the public at large. Doctor Jardine has specifically assured those interested that he was going to cause to be made a complete investigation of the Narcissus situation, upon the results of which he would base his decision as to the need and advisability of the restrictions scheduled for January 1, 1926. If he should not be present at the November 16 conference, at which, we are given to understand, the entire results of the investigation ordered by him are to be reviewed, how is he to arrive at a sound and thoroughly justified decision? It may be suggested that the substance of the conference will be presented to him in summarized form by those who conduct it. But if, as is now threatened, this means the Federal Horticultural Board, what need of any conference at all? The Secretary must know the country -- and, indeed, the world -- already knows what the board thinks and how it desires (and doubtless intends) to act unless subjected to the broaderminded control of a superior authority. Unless circumstances so change as to permit the Secretary to be present at the conference, many persons are going to feel that the efforts of those who attend and present their arguments will be comparatively fruitless, and the results of the meeting a foregone conclusion."

2 An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for November 11 says: "Trading interests that have been wrong in their judgment about the size of the current cotton crop and speculative groups who always abhor a falling price level are now much given to venting their spleen upon the Government cotton reports. There is little disposition in conservative quarters to doubt that the recent reports of the Department of Agriculture are in the main an accurate account of the state of affairs as it exists at the present moment. Elements of uncertainty have in substantial measure, although not entirely, been removed from the situation. So much of the current crop is not only picked but ginned that there is hardly a probability that the figures now officially given out are very badly in error. In these circumstances it is hardly better than childish to complain about the frequency of Government reports and the like so far as the immediate situation is concerned. If Government reports were always as close to the truth as the last one or two are generally credited with being, much of the ground for complaint about them would be swept away and no harm would be done by even more frequent publication than now obtains.

The trouble is--from the viewpoint of a good many interests in the speculative cotton market--that an exceptionally large crop of cotton has been raised, and barring very adverse weather will be harvested in its entirety, a fact that is more or less certain to hold prices below their recent rather exorbitant levels. This, coupled with the truth that not many observers were aware of the fact until quite recently, is causing some interests to lose sleep. There is no excuse for trying to blame the Department of Agriculture for such a situation. With all its facilities it must still be subject to human limitations. The best students in the trade failed to understand the crop situation very well. It is certainly not surprising that the official forecasters at Washington could not do so. At all events, no blame attaches to them for telling the truth at the present time. Nor would there be anything to gain by suppressing the facts until ginning figures some months hence made them known. Government reports as a general rule are an abomination because they are so often wrong and so erratically wrong. For that reason they should be subjected to major reform. But the case for such improvement is wakened, not strengthened, by attacking recent reports which, after all, are usually admitted to be essentially accurate."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Nov. 11: Chicago hog prices closed at $11.75 for the top; bulk $11 to $11.70; beef steers, choice $12.50 to $14.25; good $9.75 to $12.75; medium $7.75 to $9.75; heifers, good and choice $6.75 to $11.25; common and medium $4.75 to $7; cows, good and choice $5.40 to $8.50; canners and cutters $3.15 to $4; vealers, medium to choice $9.25 to $12.25; heavy calves, medium to choice $5 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs light and handyweight medium to choice $14 to $15.90; yearling wethers, medium to choice $9.50 to $13.25; fat ewes, common to choice $4.75 to $8.50; feeding lambs medium to choice $13.50 to $15.80.

Pennsylvania sacked Round Whites ranged $3.65 to $4.15 per 100 pounds in eastern markets. Dealers in Chicago were asking $3 to $3.50 for Northern Round Whites in carlots. Best New York and midwestern Yellow varieties of onions ranged $2.25 to $3 packed per 100 pounds in consuming centers and around $2.50 to $2.75 f.o.b. shipping points. New York Danish type cabbage declined $4 to $10 per ton in eastern city markets to a general jobbing range of $25 to $30. New York Baldwin apples ranged $4.50 to $5 per barrel in eastern markets and sold at $4 f.o.b. Rochester.

Middling spot cotton in 7 designated spot markets advanced 63 points, closing at 20.15¢ per lb. (Holiday in New Orleans, Houston and Galveston). New York December future contracts advanced 65 points, closing at 20.60¢.

No Grain or Dairy Reports account Holiday (Armistice Day).
(Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

- - -

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 38 Section 1 November 13, 1925.

FARM LEGISLATION The New York Times to-day says: "With some of the more radical farm leaders in Congress preparing to attack the protective tariff and threatening a revolt against the Republican party in the West unless legislation is enacted to put prices of farm products and manufactured goods on parity, President Coolidge turned his attention yesterday to the farm problem which confronts the administration in Congress. The President is said to recognize that the administration's policy of delaying consideration of radical proposals must be followed by some legislative action which will satisfy the bulk of the farmers of the States which have been manifesting anti-Republican tendencies. In this situation, Senator Cummins of Iowa is attempting, in conference with members of his delegation and other farm leaders, to work out a program acceptable to them and the administration. He came here three weeks ago and in a conference with the President presented the feeling in the West. He has undertaken to formulate a farm legislative program and, after consulting the President and the Secretary of Agriculture, began conferences yesterday with farm leaders...."

TARIFF CHANGES OPPOSED The press to-day reports: "Six hundred exporters from all parts of the country, attending the sixteenth annual convention of the American Manufacturers' Export Association at New York, united yesterday in demanding of Congress that 'no attempt be made to modify the main features of the Fordney-McCumber Tariff act.' The resolution contended that the present act had not been in effect long enough to demonstrate its merits and asserted that Congressional revision at this time would have a disturbing effect upon business....."

YOUNG ADVOCATES NEW ENGLAND POWER POOL A Worcester, Mass., dispatch to the press to-day states that Owen D. Young, chairman of the board of directors of the General Electric Company, speaking yesterday at the New England Conference, a 'town meeting' for the six New England States, advocated the creation of a New England power pool, mobilizing the flow of New England's rivers and tides in order, through integrated transmission systems, to concentrate the power required for industry at the most economical point of production. The remarks of Mr. Young and other speakers were received enthusiastically by 1,000 delegates who will continue their efforts to-day to create an organization for the united economic effort of New England. Mr. Young said in part: "The six States of New England represent a natural economic unit with its industry dominant and its agriculture furnishing its perishable food supply. Specifically now what can it do? My answer is: Create a New England power pool and draw from that mobilized supply, through adequate integrated transmission systems, the power you need for your industry at the most economic point of production. All of your sources of power which are developed should feed into your power pool."

Section 2

American Sheep to Russia A shipment of 1,200 registered Rambouillet sheep was made from Sanpete and Iron Counties, Utah, to Russia on October 10, the sheep to be used for starting a Government breeding farm in that country. Two representatives of the Russian Government, aided by an interpreter, selected the sheep, which are chiefly breeding ewes, together with some bucks. The sheep comprising the shipment are considered to be among the finest of their breed in the United States. Approximately 1,000 of them are from flocks near Mount Pleasant, Utah, the remainder being from Parowan, an important center for the Rambouillet breed. The sheep are being attended in transit by an expert American caretaker and will be landed at Odessa. (Press, Nov. 12.)

Cotton Sales Decided increases in the takings of American raw cotton by British spinners are noted in a report of the Liverpool Cotton Association received at the Department of Commerce. During the four weeks ended October 23 total deliveries of raw cotton to British spinners aggregated 267,000 bales, compared with 221,000 bales during the preceding four-week period. Takings of American cotton during the more recent period amounted to 174,000 bales, as against 143,000 bales during the preceding period. Takings for the twelve weeks of the present season were 685,000 bales, including 452,000 bales American, as against 605,000 bales during the corresponding period of last year, when the figures included 358,000 bales American. (Press, Nov. 12.)

Crops and Rail Rates An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for November 10 says: "Doctor Friday, the former president of Michigan Agricultural College, declared in testimony recently before the Interstate Commerce Commission's western rate advance hearing at Chicago that 'agricultural depression' does not exist. He illustrated by figures that the condition of economic distress during the post-war deflation period no longer holds true, citing the billion and a half dollars which went to the cotton growers last year and the happier position this year of the growers of grain and the producers of cattle and sheep. Doctor Friday's conclusions appear to be upheld by State and Federal crop reports from the Middle West. Two successive good crop years in North Dakota have put the farmers on their feet, say reports to the State Department of Agriculture, and the State is enjoying better conditions than at any time in the last ten years. Back taxes have been paid up and bank deposits have increased. Higher prices were compensation for decreased crops in Oklahoma. The same is true of Kansas, with financial conditions reported as generally good. Iowa and Indiana farmers are holding crops, instead of dumping, thus assuring steadier prices. Ohio, Illinois and Missouri farmers are cashing in their corn at $1 and their wheat at $1.40.

"The Commerce Department's review places the index figure of farm products at 153, considering prices of 1913 as 100. All this being true, the direction of the Interstate Commerce Commission by the Hoch-Smith resolution to effect such changes in the railroad rate structure as will 'promote the freedom of movement of agricultural products,' said by that resolution to be affected by 'the existing depression in agriculture,' appears no longer to be well grounded. There may be sufficient reason for a general review of rates, but obstruction to the movement of farm products hardly seems a valid excuse now, if, indeed, it ever was. The fact that agriculture has recovered without its having been necessary

to put into effect discriminatory rates in its favor would seem to be the best argument for abandonment of the effort to 'legislate a fact,' as Doctor Friday put it. At any rate, it hardly seems fair to penalize the railroads of to-day for the misfortunes of the farmers four or five years ago, especially when it appears impossible to prove that the railroads are to blame."

Game Laws /An editorial in Chicago Journal of Commerce for November 10 says: "There appeared among the brevities on our first page the other day a paragraph expressing the distress of rice growers at Stuttgart, Ark., who want the game laws suspended to enable them to exterminate wild ducks that are eating the crop. At various times there are printed stories of deer becoming pests in particular neighborhoods by trampling gardens. Not long ago we had complaint from farmers in northern Michigan who said that pheasants were mingling with the chickens in the barnyard and cocks were killing off all the roosters. These yarns are always delightful little feature stories, and editors welcome them. Presumably they are true. Such instances have come within our own observation, but the cumulative effect of them is to spread the idea that game is winning in the battle with civilization and to dampen public interest in the heroic effort of a few public-spirited associations to preserve for our children the too scattered and too precarious remnants of an outdoor heritage enjoyed and disdained by our forefathers. Never was a Nation so profligate with its natural resources and its natural beauties as has been the United States. As to game, the passenger pigeon is extinct; the bison and the antelope are public charges in zoos; the elk and the goat are going that way. The extermination of the wood-duck, the most beautiful of American birds, is threatened. Almost every game bird and animal dwindles rapidly every year in numbers. We have had some luck at restoring ducks, pheasant, quail and deer. The job has just begun. If a few acres of rice and a few roosters are to be determining factors, the conservationists have a hopeless task, both in restoring our wild life resources and in re-awakening the public to the worth and the beauty of the outdoors."

Korea's Farming Progress Agriculture has made great strides at Seoul, Korea, since it came under the administration of Japan fifteen years ago, according to Y. Mitsui, Japanese agricultural representative at Seoul. He has been studying farming methods in the United States for the past eight months, spending a good deal of time in California. "When Korea came under Japanese administration, the conditions were very bad," said Mr. Mitsui recently at New York. "Agricultural conditions were such that while the people had enough to eat in the autumn and winter they were nearly starving by spring and had to live on wild plants. By administering funds carefully and carrying on experimental work, rice seeds that were suited to the soil of that part of Korea were found, and were distributed among the people. We found that the farmers did not understand the importance of keeping one kind of seed, if it was good, and they hurt their crops by mixing seeds. To offset this tendency we distribute new seeds every five years. Fifteen years ago the exports from Korea amounted to 19,000,000 yen per year. It is now over 200,000,000 yen. Included in this are rice, cotton, fruit, meat and silk in the cocoon. While there was some rice before, the crop has increased with great rapidity. Japan imports from Korea 10,000,000 bushels of rice yearly and Korea receives for it about 100,000,000 yen. Korean industries are now growing up, among them, silk and cotton mills and sugar beet factories. The Koreans

outside of Korea who want to separate Korea from Japanese administration do not realize how much has been accomplished." (Press, Nov. 11.)

New York Gasoline Tax

A Syracuse, N.Y., dispatch to the press of November 12 says: "After two hours' discussion the New York State Farm Bureau Federation, in convention at Syracuse, November 11, went on record in favor of a proposed tax on gasoline. Peter G. Ten Eyck, of Albany, former Congressman and secretary of the farm bureau's taxation committee, urged favorable action. Discussion over the generality of the proposal ended with the acceptance in principle. Several other changes in the State taxation system also were urged in resolutions adopted. One favored establishment of a budget system to inform taxpayers where their money is going."

Potato Shortage

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for November 10 says: "The lowly potato is again in the limelight.....And this problem is also complicated. The European markets are under the ban, due to insect pests which the United States has been vigilant to keep out of the country. Where the ban does not apply the tariff wall rises as an obstacle. The influence of Maine farmers was sufficient to put a clause in the Fordney-McCumber law that they might reap the benefit and at the same time enjoy the fruits of exportation. Now the benefits are going to the Canadian growers, who, despite the American duty, are selling on our market, and the public, as usual, is paying the bill.....It took the war to demonstrate the essential part the potato plays in present-day diet. In Austria and Germany its dearth was almost a tragedy. Even in America there was self-denial in the use of this vegetable that the soldiers might not want. It may almost be said that the war was won by three articles of food which the Allies had and the Germans were almost without--sugar, bread and potatoes; and potatoes were hardly less essential than bread."

Railroad and Farm Returns

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for November 12 says: "Signs are multiplying that western shippers, including farmers, are willing to give the railroads a fair hearing on the need they allege for greater net revenues. Implacable and unreasoning opposition appears now to survive chiefly among a group of professional farmers' friends, including some State commissioners and editors of farm journals. The following is from an editorial in the Washington Farmer, published at Spokane: 'The railroads of the United States earned a net profit in August equivalent to 6% per annum. Taking the lines of the country over, they had net earnings of a little more than 6% on their tentative valuation of $20,544,000,000 as fixed by the Interstate Commerce Commission... Taking them altogether, they are now earnings a little better than 6% profit on the generous valuations set upon their properties by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The roads, therefore, have six marbles this year with a good prospect of earning more next year....For the crop year 1919-20 he (the American farmer) earned 5.8% on his own capital investment. ...Then deflation came and we find that for the crop year 1920-21 the farmers actually lost 3.1% on their own capital invested. In the next crop year they lost 1.4%. For the crop year 1922-23 they earned 1.5%. For the crop year 1923-24 they earned 1.4%. Figures are not available for the crop year 1924-25, but assuming that the farmers generally did a little better this year than last they would have a net return of about 2%. In other words, they will have this year two marbles for their earnings as against six marbles earned by the railroads.' The 'generous valuation'

set by the I.C.C. are based on price and wage scales of 1914 and before, and exclusion of every 'element of value' that the commission was not compelled by common decency to admit. In 1910 the railroads carried road and equipment on their books at $14,500,000,000 and in 1920 at $19,800,000,000, the increase of 37 per cent representing actual additional money invested. But in 1920 the I.C.C. marked them down to $18,900,000,000. In 1910 the Department of Agriculture valuation of farm property stood at $42,000,000,000 and in 1920 at $78,000,000,000, an increase of 87.5 per cent. Yet in that decade the number of farms had increased only 1.4 per cent, and the average size of farms only 7.3 per cent. No such inflation as took place in farm land prices was permitted in the railroad valuation on which freight rates and passenger fares are based by the Commission. Farm lands have been deflated to some extent since 1920, but much existing mortgage debt was put upon the farms at the top prices of the war-time boom. It is patently untrue to say that the farmers are only getting two marbles to the railroads' six. All the railroads of the country taken together made the month's equivalent of a 5.85 per cent return on their rock-bottom valuation in August and the equivalent of 6.25 per cent in September. For 1925 as a whole they promise to have about 5.50 per cent. But the western roads are earning decidedly less than the eastern and southern. They may get as much as 4 per cent on a valuation which is for the larger part on a pre-war basis. Suppose the editor of the Washington Farmer attempts to restate the capital returns of the farm industry on the basis of 1914 farm values plus actual money investment since made? He will then find himself compelled to revise his fable about the boy with six marbles and the boy with two. He may even have to discard it altogether."

Weather Forecasts

An editorial in The New York Times for November 12 says: "If Mark Twain were living, he would hesitate to say that, although people are always complaining of the weather, nothing is done about it. Doing something about the weather is the business of innumerable meteorologists. Not all of them are connected with the Smithsonian Institution, the United States Weather Bureau and the astronomical observatories. Any man with assurance enough may be a weather prophet. In the rural districts the flight of geese and other migrants, the coats of rabbits, the husbandry of squirrels, the travels of turtles, are stock in trade enough for the augur. A reputation is easily gained by the hardy annuals of this type. ...An 'ocean meteorologist' with a growing reputation is fluttering households that have small coal piles by announcing a very cold winter to be followed by a late spring....Take the notion of a frigid summer in 1926, which is having a great run, although the ocean meteorologist defers it a year. Dr. Helmut Gans of Geneva demurs, Doctor Hesselberg of the Oslo Meteorological Bureau and Dr. Fridtjof Nansen admit that there has been less solar activity of late than usual, but balk at an abnormally cold summer next year or the year after. Director S. F. Archenhold of the Berlin-Treptow Observatory declares that 'meteorology at present can forecast weather for only a brief time in advance,' while Professor Von Ficker of the Prussian Meteorological Institute observes that one must be very skeptical to associate ocean temperatures with cold summers. He agrees with Director Archenhold that weather forecasts must not be for long ahead. That was the opinion of our own General Adolphus W. Greely, who, when chief of the Weather Bureau, wrote a book on the subject. Nevertheless, the study of sun-spots and ocean surfaces goes on unflaggingly. Expeditions are planned to Africa and Asia to take notes of solar radiation in relation to brands of weather. The Smithsonian Institution has been giving a good deal of attention to the significance of sun-spots...."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Nov. 12: Chicago hog prices closed at $11.70 for the top; bulk $10.75 to $11.60; beef steers choice $12.50 to $14; good $9.50 to $12.50; heifers good and choice $7 to $11.50; medium and common $5 to $7.25; cows, good and choice $5.65 to $8.75; canners and cutters $3.15 to $4.15; vealers, medium to choice $9 to $12; heavy calves, medium to choice $5 to $8; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $14 to $15.90; yearling wethers, medium to choice $9.50 to $13; fat ewes, common to choice $4.75 to $8.50; feeding lambs medium to choice $13.50 to $15.80.

Pennsylvania sacked Round White potatoes ranged 50¢ to 85¢ lower than a week ago, closing at $3.50 to $4.15 per 100 pounds in eastern markets. New York Baldwin apples sold at $4 to $5 per barrel in eastern cities and mostly $4 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Danish type cabbage ranged $25 to $30 bulk per ton in consuming centers and $20 to $25 f.o.b. Western New York. Best New Jersey Yellow sweet potatoes sold at $2 to $2.50 per bushel hamper in New York City. Tennessee Nancy Halls $1.35 to $1.60 in the Middle West.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 49 3/4 to 50¢; Chicago 48 1/2¢; Philadelphia 51¢; Boston 49 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 25 points, closing at 19.90¢ per lb. New York December future contracts declined 30 points, closing at 20.30¢.

Grain prices quoted Nov. 12: No.1 dark northern, Minneapolis $1.49 to $1.73. No.2 red winter, St. Louis $1.68 to $1.70; Kansas City $1.67. No.2 hard winter, Chicago $1.59; St. Louis $1.61 to $1.63; Kansas City $1.60 to $1.64. No.2 mixed corn, Chicago 87 1/2¢; Kansas City 87¢. No.3 mixed corn, Minneapolis 86 1/2 to 90 1/2¢. No.2 yellow corn, Chicago 89¢; Kansas City 88 to 91¢. No.3 yellow corn, Chicago 88 1/2¢; St. Louis (new) 83 1/2¢. No.2 white corn, Chicago 87 1/4¢; Kansas City 87¢. No.3 white oats, Chicago 39 1/2¢; Minneapolis 35¢; St. Louis 40¢. No.2 white oats, Kansas City 39 1/2¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov. 12,	Nov. 11,	Nov. 12, 1924
20 Industrials	155.47	154.18	108.14
20 R.R. stocks	105.46	105.10	93.63

(Wall St. Jour., Nov. 13.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 39 Section 1 November 14, 1925.

TAXING THE FORESTS

An editorial in The Washington Post to-day says: "Few things are of greater importance to the Nation than consideration of the denuding of timber lands which is going on with increasing rapidity every year. The subject of reforestation apparently has but little appeal to residents of cities; but if they realized to what extent their personal comfort depends on the continuance of an unfailing supply of timber their lively interest would be aroused. The Forest Service has undertaken a Nation-wide study of the forest taxation problem in relation to reforestation of privately owned lands. It will be conducted in all principal wooded regions to determine the effect of present tax laws on reforestation and timber holdings, and conditions that must be met in any effort to readjust present tax laws with fairness to land owners and public treasuries. A special committee of the Senate made a country-wide investigation of reforestation in 1923 and 1924. That committee, after a very thorough inquiry, reached the conclusion that timber growing would be greatly stimulated by giving land owners security against unjust and burdensome taxation during the growing period, when young forests produce no income from which taxes can be paid. The pending tax study is the natural corollary of the Senate committee investigation and is expected to result in a workable plan under which owners of land suitable for timber growing will find it profitable to set aside certain areas to that purpose. There are 371,000,000 acres of privately owned forest land in the United States that can be restored to their original fertility. The proposed forest tax study in this connection, therefore, would seem to be of prime importance. Practical results, instead of theories, will be accomplished by the study. Forestry officials explain that in most States reforestation is discouraged by the danger of having young timber taxed over and over again before it reaches merchantable size. It is believed, and hoped, that as a result of this study the Federal Government will be able to help the States in a national reform of forest taxation. Out of that will come reforestation and all the national blessings that, naturally, would attend it."

NEW ENGLAND CONDITIONS

A Worcester, Mass., dispatch to the press to-day states that one thousand delegates to the New England Conference, representing, conservatively, $5,000,000,000 of agricultural, industrial and commercial income annually, listened yesterday to a frank and almost brutal analysis of "What is the matter with New England?" Speakers declared that the "dead hand" of trusts and estates exercised a baleful influence on New England industry and that the only way to prosperity was to "give the public what it wants," as well as to develop new industries in place of those which have left New England. At the same time the speakers pointed out many important respects in which New England still led the Nation industrially and asserted confidently that New England was on the eve of a commercial, agricultural and industrial revival.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Dun's Review to-day says: "No perceptible lessening of business confidence resulted from the collapse of stock prices early this week. The primary cause for the reaction existed within the market itself, speculation having been carried to excess, and during the period of readjustment in that quarter attention was temporarily diverted from some of the best industrial news of the year."

Section 2

Agricultural Resources of South Africa

Sir Horace Plunkett is the author of an extensive article on the agricultural problem in South Africa, in the South African Journal of the Department of Agriculture for October. In this he says: "There is no need here for a detailed survey of the country's agricultural resources. A host of witnesses assured me of their abundance. Maize, they told me, is the staple crop. Given the right breed of pigs and a greatly increased cultivation of lucerne, an export bacon trade might be marketed more advantageously and furnishes the raw material of many actual and potential industries. South African tobacco has attracted the attention of one of the world's biggest industrial organizations. Some districts are favorable to the dairying industry and the manufacture of milk products. The production of poultry and eggs should be universal. Cane-sugar can be grown in Natal and Zululand, and manufactured on a large scale. Beef production for export is not on the program at present; but I have seen many cattle whose chief value must be their hides, furnishing the basis of leather industries. Sheep, I am told, could be greatly increased with a view to larger wool export, and possibly a home development of a woollen manufacture. Of cotton industries I know nothing, but many people think they have a bright future in South Africa, both for this crop and its by-products. And then there are ostriches, which supplement diamonds in the adornment of womenkind. The country has too lately emerged from its pioneer stage for any final decision to be taken as to those potentialities, of which I dare say my list is very far from complete. At any rate, these questions are for experts. Those I consulted satisfied me upon the abundance and variety of the agricultural resources awaiting development. Probably there might be many more irrigation projects. There is no lack of cheap labor. I believe this might be better paid if it were better educated, with advantage to the employer. But the main consideration I desire to emphasize is this: The agriculture is so diversified--so technical in many of its branches and in its subsidiary industries--that its successful exploitation depends absolutely upon the technical skill and organizing capacity of the British and Dutch farmers. The marketing of the greater part of the product is in Europe, 6,000 miles away, so that efficient distribution, no less than efficient production, is beyond the reach and ken of the native races. In the circumstances, the economic justification for the white man's domination is complete, provided he does well the duty assigned to him."

Agricultural Workers in South Africa

"According to the population Census of 1921, there are in the Union of South Africa 163,830 European males of fifteen years and upwards who are engaged in agriculture. This is out of a total male European population of 782,035 (of which 320,939 are dependents, children, etc.) and constitutes by far the greatest section of the population. This means that of every 1,000 European males in the Union, 410 are children and 210 are males of fifteen years of age and over engaged in the primary industry of agriculture. The next on the list is the industrial worker with 119, and then commerce with 102. Transport and communication (railways, etc.) accounts for 40, and mining for 26. The professions are divided into two sections, of which administrative government shows 29 and other professions 21. In every 1,000 there are 13 of independent means. When the numbers of farmers gainfully occupied (that is actually working for a monetary return) is compared with European males similarly occupied in other directions, it is found that out of every 1,000 males there are many as 374 farmers, industry being next with 212, then commerce

with 182, transport and communication with 71, and mining with 46; administrative government accounts for 52, and other professions 38. Here we find, also, that the males gainfully occupied in the Cape Province, Transvaal, and Orange Free State are preponderatingly farmers, but that in Natal farmers are only third on the list, industrial workers being first and commercial second." (South African Jour. of Dept. of Agr., October.)

Australian Wheat Crop

An Associated dispatch from Rome November 13 says: "The Australian Government, in a cablegram November 12 to the International Institute of Agriculture, estimated the Commonwealth's wheat crop for this year at 2,700,000 metric tons, as compared with 4,400,000 metric tons last year and a yearly average of 3,000,000 metric tons for the last five years. The exceptional shortage of this year's crop was due to insufficient rain. Many complete crop failures were reported in Victoria and New South Wales.

Brazilian Coffee Loans Barred

American loans sought by Brazilian authority to support coffee-price valorization have been refused by New York bankers at the instance of the administration, it appeared November 12 in the publication of a statement by Secretary Hoover. Amounts of loans sought and the identity of the banking houses and borrowers concerned were not mentioned by Mr. Hoover, but the Government's interest was revealed as that of preventing any use of American money to increase the price of coffee to American consumers above a point which the Government considers fair. (Press, Nov. 13.)

Poland to Reduce Harvester Duty

Changes in the Polish tariff affecting an extensive list of commodities will become effective January 1, next, according to cable advices received at Department of Commerce. Of importance among the changes are the reduction by 75 per cent of the import duty on harvesters, binders and mowers, and various increases of the import duties on certain kinds of leather and automotive products. (Press, Nov. 13.)

Strachey on American Farm Life

John StLoe Strachey, British author, and editor of the London Spectator, now on a visit to this country, said in New York November 13: "I am not going to pretend that you have no problems here, no anxieties and nothing to worry about. At my first entry into America hardly a month ago I was, I confess, occasionally bewildered, and even for a time daunted and depressed by many of the things told me by far-seeing friends. They told me of their fears as to their Nation's future. They represented the majority of their fellow-citizens as too much immersed in material affairs, too often content with the trivial and the obvious, too proud of things that ought to be deplored, too ready to lose the substance and grasp at the shadows of that passing show we call existence.....How could I, who love your country as I love my own, fail to be perturbed by such fatal phantoms as were paraded before me? Happily I found a solution for my fears and support for my hopes. By a noble accident a friend met me with his car on the Canadian border and took me from Buffalo to Philadelphia by road. We went for 800 miles through fields and forests, by woods, waters, wastes, mountains, foothills and plains. As we passed along the historic Susquehanna trails we found all that the tourists could demand of natural beauty. We moved as by enchantment through avenues of golden boughs, while above and beyond were the azure of the skies and the violet ridges of the Pennsylvania Apennines--shades deep embowered like those of Vallambrosa. But there were things better worth seeing than even these

delights of form and color. We sped past thousands of homesteads, barns and farm houses, orchards and pastures, sometimes standing in a kind of benevolent isolation, sometimes grouped in smiling townships and incorporated villages. I had found salvation. The farms of the East delivered my soul from the prison house of pessimism. How could I deem America a slave to materialism and false gods when I saw such a homeland, such a stronghold of serenity, peace and fruitfulness?....Believe me, America is not going to suffer any social, moral or intellectual catastrophe, and what is going to save her is the noble spirit, kept alive in her millions of country homes. There is the rock on which the Republic is founded....."

Surplus Problem An editorial in The Pennsylvania Farmer for November 14 says: "The question of how profitably to dispose of the surplus produced on the American farms will not down. In the sections producing great quantities of the staples such as wheat, corn, meat and cotton satisfactory prices continue in spite of the tariff to depend upon having little or no surplus beyond the requirements of this country. Because of the large acreage, the number of individual growers, the diversity of soil and climate, and the varying seasonal and weather conditions it is impossible always to plant and grow just enough for home use. This Nation is on the safe side only when a normal growing season produces a surplus. But this surplus, even tho it is only as much as ten per cent, often proves calamitous because of world prices. In spite of the theoretical solving of this problem by professors, politicians and chambers of commerce the farmers of the South and West refuse to quit their agitation for such action as will actually take care of the surplus problem and place agriculture in a position that it may benefit from the application of the tariff principle. Already several bills have been prepared for introduction into Congress and we may expect to hear much of this subject next winter."

World Prices World prices of the requirements of daily life continue to advance. The statistical reports of the Department of Commerce showing prices abroad of the principal articles imported in August, indicate an advance in the foreign prices of 54 important articles as compared with those of the same months of last year, while only 28 enumerated articles show reductions in the same period. This comparison of the import prices in the latest period with those in the corresponding months of the preceding year, says the Trade Record of the National City Bank of New York, is an accurate picture of the advance or decline of prices the world over. The import regulations of the United States require that the stated valuation of the imported merchandise shall be "the actual market value or wholesale price at the time of exportation to the United States in the principal markets of the country from whence exported", and when we take the total quantity of India rubber, for example, imported in a given month and compare this with the stated value of all rubber imported, the average value per pound in all the markets from which it is drawn is readily determined. And this is also true regarding the foreign values of the many articles reaching us from the outside world, and a comparison of the import prices of August 1925 with those of the same month in last year or the average in any earlier year permits a determination as to whether the "market value or wholesale price" of the respective articles in the countries from which the imports are drawn has really advanced. Applying this method to

the official records of the import value of 80 principal articles imported, it appears that 52 of the 80 actually show higher prices abroad in 1925 than in the same month of the preceding year, and a comparison of these import prices of 1924 and 1925 with those of the fiscal year 1914, all of which preceded the opening of the war, makes it apparent that world prices of the principal articles of commerce are now much higher than in the pre-war period and that the producers of these articles are apparently receiving much higher prices now than prior to the war.

Section 5
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Nov. 13: Northern sacked Round White potatoes $2.85 to $3 per 100 lbs. carlot sales in Chicago and $3 to $3.25 f.o.b. North Central shipping points. Pennsylvania Round Whites ranged $3.50 to $4.15 to jobbers in eastern cities. New York Baldwin apples ranged $4 to $4.75 per bbl. in city markets and sold mostly around $4 f.o.b. Rochester. Best New York and midwestern Yellow variety onions brought $2.25 to $3 sacked per 100 lbs. in consuming centers and $2.25 to $2.65 f.o.b. Best New York Danish type cabbage ranged $25 to $30 bulk per ton in distributing centers and $20 to $22 f.o.b. Rochester.

Chicago livestock prices quoted November 13: Hogs, top $11.80; bulk $11 to $11.75; beef steers choice $12.25 to $13.75; good $9.50 to $12.25; medium $8 to $9.50; common $5.75 to $8; heifers, good and choice $7 to $11.50; medium and common $5 to $7.25; cows, good and choice $5.75 to $8.75; medium and common $4.15 to $5.75; canners and cutters $3.25 to $4.15; vealers, medium to choice $9 to $12; heavy calves, medium to choice $5 to $8; stocker and feeder steers, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs medium to choice $14 to $15.90; yearling wethers, medium to choice $9.50 to $13; fat ewes, common to choice $4.75 to $8.50; feeding lambs, medium to choice $13.50-$15.80.

Grain prices quoted November 13: No.2 red winter Chicago $1.62; St. Louis $1.71 to $1.73; Kansas City $1.69 to $1.70. No.2 hard winter St. Louis $1.64 to $1.66; Kansas City $1.63 to $1.67. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City 89¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 90 to 91 1/2¢; Kansas City 92¢. No.3 yellow corn St. Louis 87 1/2¢. No.3 white corn Chicago 87 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 39 3/4¢; Minneapolis 40 1/4¢; St.Louis 40 1/2¢. No.2 white oats Kansas City 39 1/2¢.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: New York 50 1/2¢; Chicago 49 1/2¢; Philadelphia 51 1/2¢; Boston 50¢.

Closing prices on Wisconsin primary cheese markets Nov. 12: Daisies 23 1/4¢; Longhorns 23¢; Square Prints 25¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 5 points, closing at 19.95¢ per lb.; New York December future contracts advanced 6 points, closing at 20.36¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov. 13,	Nov. 12,	Nov. 13,1924
20 Industrials	157.76	155.47	108.58
20 R.R. stocks	107.81	105.46	93.04

(Wall St. Jour., Nov. 14.)

- - -

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XIX, No. 40 Section 1 November 16, 1925.

TAX LEGISLATION The Associated Press to-day reports: "The limit in tax reduction for next year has been reached by the House ways and means committee in revisions already approved for the new revenue bill, Chairman Green declared yesterday in announcing that the door was closed against further proposals for tax relief. The $304,000,000 cut in revenue next year estimated to result from revisions ordered by the committee in tax rates, he said, is all the Treasury can stand. The chairman's statement, issued yesterday, is believed not only to mean there will be no further alterations in the tax rate schedules by the committee, but that the threatened fight in the House for greater reductions in the automobile tax than have been voted by the committee will be vigorously opposed. Repeal of the automobile passenger car levy would cut another $50,000,000 from the annual revenue."

BAKING MERGER An Associated Press dispatch to-day says: "Vigorous dissent to action of the Federal Trade Commission in voting to amend the complaint issued last April against the Continental Baking Corporation was made public last night by Commissioner Thompson. The complaint charged acts tending to a monopoly in the baking industry, through acquisition of other baking companies, and Mr. Thompson's dissent was registered November 6 when the commission by majority vote decided to amend it 'to include allegations of the violation of the Clayton act by reason of other acquisitions of stock,' as reported by the Commissioner's chief examiner. The effect of the commission's action was held by the dissenting commissioner to mean the taking of additional testimony and evidence by the examiner, a step which he declared could result only in unnecessary delay in the prosecution of the case."

EUROPEAN GRAIN TRADE A Vienna dispatch to the press to-day states that in all markets of the Middle European Succession States, the corn trade has not been doing well, in spite of recent rise in prices on world markets. German wheat prices went up in consequence of Germany having during the last week delivered from 3,000 to 4,000 tons daily to British flour mills, but the very large crops of the Succession States have not met with a proportionate demand. Exports from Yugoslavia have decreased, and business in Czechoslovakian corn trade continues in stagnation. Even Hungarian prices have fallen, there being no demand except for wheat and very little for that. Rye and fodder markets are altogether at a standstill.

NEW YORK DAIRY MERGER A New York dispatch to the press to-day states that National Dairy Products Corporation, through a stock purchase contract, will acquire later this month the Sheffield Farms Company, Inc., and its affiliated companies, the Sheffield By-product Company, Inc., and the Sheffield Condensed Milk Company, Inc., and its affiliated companies. The acquisition will be financed by the sale of $15,000,000 National Dairy Products Corporation notes to a syndicate headed by Goldman Sachs & Co., to be followed by a public offering of the issue.

Section 2

Advertising, Marketing and Distribution

Advertising is given a definite place in the economy of marketing, or distribution, by the committee on market analysis, advertising and advertising mediums of the National Distribution Conference. The full report of the committee will be made at the meeting of the distribution conference to be held in Washington next month under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Although the committee concludes that there is a large element of waste in advertising, due to lack of information or misjudgment of market conditions, it finds it to be an important economic factor in the reduction of distribution costs, resulting in advantages both to producer and consumer. "Broadly speaking", the committee says in its survey, "it would seem that where the advertising creates an increased demand for products of a certain class, a wider distribution of such products,--in other words, makes new business, bringing about lessened distribution costs and lessened production costs, owing to increased demands--there can be no doubt as to the value of such advertising, not merely to the concerns that pay for it but also to the public that consumes the goods. From the data available, it is hardly possible to make a non-disputative demonstration. Nevertheless, we believe that it can safely be said that the use of effective advertising by national distributors as a general rule produces one or more of the following results: 1. Decreases the cost of selling. 2. Lowers the cost of production on account of increased volume. 3. Lowers prices to the consumer and thereby raises the standard of living. 4. As a by-product, aids in the education of the general public.

Farming Experience

An editorial in The Southern Cultivator for November 1 says: "In our travels we meet every week, farmers who disparage the value of agricultural literature and will tell you that farming has to be learned by experience. Now with all due respect to these men, we have never seen a highly successful man among this class. The editor on the 20th day of October passed his sixty-third mile post. All our life has been passed on the farm and dealing with our agricultural problems. We have had a rich and varied experience. We have, further, had a wide opportunity to observe the successful farmers of our Southland....We want to say this much--It is a pity that we can get so few who will really devote their best time and talents to the mastery of the science of farming; that we have so few who are willing to use all their power of brain and hand to gain a higher success in the most fundamental and important calling on earth. Our men to-day seem to be eager for only two things--ease or pleasure and money.... The appreciation of livestock and good crops seems to have lost its charm to them. The Athenians told Paul that much learning had made him mad. The getting of money and craving for being eternally 'on the go,' has made our generation mad, and they have broken loose from the saner things of life. We would like to see the day when a few young men should choose farming because they loved it--because they delighted in tilling the soil and in making it more fertile--because they loved to develop better types of animal life--because of their deep interest in the possibilities of plant selection--because they had rather have one dollar honestly earned from increased production than to have ten dollars fleeced from their neighbors through a test of superior wits or through pandering to their human weakness. Farming can be made profitable, but it will take a change of system and a more business-like administration to make it so. We must have more to sell and something to sell every month in the year."

Game Laws in Florida

An editorial in The Florida Times-Union for November 12 says: "Florida has game and fish laws--too many, in fact. They are so numerous as to be confounding if not worthless, to a very great extent. At best, they are shreds and patches, here a little and there a little, some State and more local....Game and Fish Commissioner Royall has compiled a bulletin of information on existing general game and fish laws in this State. The volume contains 185 pages, six by nine inches in size. Who is going to read and study such a mass of laws to find out what is and what is not permitted in the matter of hunting and fishing in Florida? Even after careful study, who can be sure of what is legal and what is illegal? By the time definite information is secured, practically no game and no fish will remain to be protected and conserved. Game and fish are valuable to Florida, the latter, particularly, being one of the State's most important natural resources, constituting an asset of enormous value. It will not do to permit this asset to be destroyed when it is such an easy matter to enact general laws that will be for protection, laws that will take the place of those that now are useless, to a very great extent. In the first place, there are too many of them; secondly, they are not up to date. Careful revision of these laws, the elimination of those that are ineffective and that hamper rather than help, is of immediate importance to the entire State."

Horse Laws in Kentucky

An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer for November 14 says: "Kentucky has been noted for years for its legalized race track gambling practices. Under the guise of fostering the breeding of thoroughbred horses, laws were passed excepting race track gambling from the laws prohibiting other forms of gambling. So odious has the practice become in the minds of the business men and church people that a commission has been formed to work for the repeal of the laws which permit this form of vice. The commission disclaims any Puritanical motives but bases its objection upon economic grounds entirely. It states that the law has not fostered the purebred horse industry, since there are only $1,226,673 worth of thoroughbred horses in the State while the value of mules is $14,000,000 and the common cattle of the State are worth $17,000,000. The commission claims that this legally created monopoly diverts millions of dollars from legitimate business and returns to the State in taxes only about $400,000."

Pork Products

World appreciation of American pork products is evidenced by the latest reports of our exports in that line of foodstuffs. The value of this important product of the American farm, pork in its various forms, exported in the year which ends with next month will total about $250,000,000, and the grand total of the past four years will approximate a billion dollars. This big demand for the food supplied by the American hog, says the Trade Record of the National City Bank of New York, is not so surprising when we consider that we, of the United States, have one-third of the swine of the world and better facilities for turning them into food form than any other country. Corn is the chief factor in transforming the pig into the form in which he is utilized for food, and he in turn is a big consumer of the corn of which we are the world's largest producer. The United States grows about three-fourths of the corn crop of the world and sends much of it abroad in the form of pork. The latest census of the outturn of our slaughtering establishments puts the value of pork products in the various forms turned out by our slaughtering establishments at a little more than one billion dollars per year. All the world demands our

pork products, either in the form of hams, bacon or lard. Of the 34 million dollars worth of bacon exported in the fiscal year 1925, over one-half went to Great Britain and over 80% to Europe as a whole, while most of the remainder went to the tropical world, especially Cuba. Of the 50 million dollars worth of hams and shoulders exported in 1925, over 40 million dollars worth went to Great Britain and considerable quantities to France, Germany and Belgium. Of the 123 million dollars worth of lard exported last year, over two-thirds went to Europe and the remainder chiefly to the tropical world, especially to Cuba.

Potato Shortage

An editorial in Modern Miller for November 7 says: "Millers are speculating on what effect the unusual shortage of potatoes throughout the country will have on the consumption of flour until the next crop is available. The production of potatoes in the United States this year is only 344,000,000 bushels, as compared with 455,000,000 bushels in 1924, and a five-year average of 418,000,000 bushels. The shortage of 111,000,000 bushels from last year will have to be made up in some way, and as wheat flour is the logical substitute and is cheaper it is a foregone conclusion there should be an increase in the consumption of the latter..... The price of flour and potatoes, pound for pound, is in favor of flour, as the wholesale price of potatoes in Chicago now stands at $4.50 at 5.50 per 100 pounds, and it is predicted will go still higher as the season advances. It also is noted that there is by far more nourishment in flour than potatoes, as the latter contains such a large percentage of moisture."

Waterways

An editorial in The New York Times for November 14 says: "Chicago views the coming to her docks of six ocean steamers by way of the St. Lawrence and the Welland Canal as an advertisement of the movement to make the great city on Lake Michigan an inland port for seaborne trade with the whole world. Four of the ships had sailed from England with cargoes of china clay. One was loaded with Cardiff coal. The sixth brought Chilean nitrate, and after the cranes had taken it off she sailed for Detroit to fill her hold with automobiles for Norway. All the ships were 'tramps,' five of Norwegian registry and the other flying the Danish flag. No vessel of more than 3,000 tons can pass from the sea through the Welland Canal. Also, the locks on the upper St. Lawrence are barriers to large ocean carriers. The dream of Chicago can not come true until the river locks can take larger vessels and the Welland Canal is deepened. Improvement of the river and the canal has been planned on such a scale that ships with a draft of thirty feet should ultimately tie up at their berths in Chicago....But the deepening of thirty-two miles of the St. Lawrence and improvement of the Welland Canal, Chicago could be made the gateway port of a territory which Mr. Lowden calls 'an empire in itself.' .....In his address at Kansas City in October Secretary Hoover declared that the natural increase of the population of the country by 40,000,000 in the next twenty-five years would have to be considered by Congress in authorizing river and harbor improvements. 'To-day,' said he, 'we must speed the development of our water in its aid to the land power, irrigation, and above all transportation.' Speaking of waterways, he advocated 'trunk lines' with 'collateral feeders' to carry the commerce of the interior to and from the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico by way of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi. The National Rivers and Harbors Congress will hold a meeting in Washington early in December. As a body it concerns itself with improvement of the waterways of the country more than with

harbors. It is reported that Congress will be asked for $50,000,000 to advance such projects as those recommended by Secretary Hoover and ex Governor Lowden."

Yule Tree Saving Planned

Governor Franklin S. Billings of Vermont, in a letter to the National Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild of New York, made public November 14, by Jeannette Bullis, director of the guild, indorsed the guild's plan for distributing small live spruce trees from nurseries instead of trees cut from the forests at Christmas time. "I am certainly in favor of doing something to stop this awful waste of our spruce trees," Governor Billings wrote. "We especially feel it here in Vermont. I think the idea to furnish small growing Christmas trees in pots is a good one. They will serve just as well for Christmas and can be transplanted in the spring." (Press, Nov. 15.)

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

The New York Times of November 15 states that Mrs. Samuel Sloan, president, and Mrs. Harold Irving Pratt, secretary of the Garden Club of America, which is composed of 6,000 amateur gardeners from all parts

1 of the United States, will come to Washington to-day to protest the proposed embargo on imported narcissus bulbs. More than 100 members will accompany them to support their position at the conference which has been called by Secretary of Agriculture Jardine.

2 An editorial in The Baltimore Sun to-day says: "If the importation of narcissus bulbs into the United States is forbidden after January 1 under the stringent regulations which the Federal Horticultural Board has initiated and proposes to administer, the Nation will be at one blow shut off from access to a source of incomparable beauty. More than that, the domestic production of these bulbs is estimated to be only one-quarter of the amount which the American market has been taking. It would seem that the embargo against Dutch bulbs is to result in much higher prices for the American variety and a stringent limitation of private and public planting. No one can accept this situation without protest unless the embargo be proved necessary for reasons which outweigh the objections; and this, according to the findings of well-informed opponents of the embargo policy, has not been done. It is admitted that the Dutch bulbs are in some measure infested with pests which ought not to be allowed access to this country, but these pests are already at large in American nurseries, and to cut them off from abroad while the local varieties remain free to spread is no panacea. As a protective measure it is fallacious and indefensible--or so the anti-embargo groups assert. These assertions will presumably be presented at the hearing which opens to-day before officials of the Department of Agriculture. The issue thus raised should be thoroughly thrashed out, for the high prices which American growers will presumably charge if the embargo is put into effect subject it to the suspicion of being a means of protecting the profits of the American industry rather than the purity of its product. This is enhanced by the fact that the embargo was announced by the Horticultural Board in 1922 to take effect January 1, 1926. If any serious danger threatened the allowance of three years of grace would have been inexcusable. The plant-loving public has only one opinion in this connection. It will not resist if the Federal Horticultural Board can show beyond question that an embargo will improve the American stock and, more important, that this improvement can be obtained in no other way. But it will

decidedly resent an attempt by the board to subsidize the American bulb industry under the guise of a quarantine against parasites and at the expense of the long-suffering consumer."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products For the week ended November 14: Fat cattle sold on a two way market, fed steers of value above $9 declining 50¢ to $1.50, choice weighty steers showing the maximum loss. Lower grades of killing steers, stockers and feeders, closed 15 to 25¢ higher, fat she stock 25 to 50¢ higher, and veal calves 50 to 75¢ lower for the week. Chicago hog prices closed at $11.80 for the top; bulk $11 to $11.75; beef steers choice $12.25 to $13.75; good $9.50 to $12.25; medium $8 to $9.50; common $5.75 to $8; heifers, good and choice $7 to $11.50; medium and common $5 to $7.25; cows, good and choice $5.75 to $8.75; medium and common $5 to $7.25; cows, good and choice $5.75 to $8.75; canners and cutters $3.25 to $4.15; vealers, medium to choice $9 to $12; heavy calves, medium to choice $5 to $8; stockers and feeders, common to choice $5 to $8.75; fat lambs; medium to choice $14 to $15.90; yearling wethers, medium to choice $9.50 to $13; fat ewes, common to choice $4.75 to $8.50; feeding lambs, medium to choice $13.50 to $15.80.

Potatoes held about steady in Pittsburgh but showed a general decline of 25¢ to 70¢ per 100 pounds elsewhere. Apple markets dull. Best New York Baldwins closed at $4 to $4.75 per barrel in city markets and $4 f.o.b. Rochester. Illinois and Michigan Jonathans $6 to $6.50 per barrel in Chicago. Onion markets dull; trading somewhat limited. Best eastern and midwestern yellow varieties ranged $2.25 to $3 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers and $2.25 to $2.50 f.o.b. Cabbage steady in Pittsburgh but $5 to $10 lower in other city markets. New York Danish type brought $25 to $30 bulk per ton in distributing centers and $18 to $23 f.o.b. Rochester.

Wheat market sharply higher for week. More activity in export demand and smaller surplus in southern hemisphere than expected were strengthening factors. Corn prices also slightly higher with supplies of old corn very small and new corn moving slowly on account of heavy moisture content. Oats markets firm but prices not quotably higher.

Butter markets were in a steady to firm position for the week. Prices maintained an even course until late in the week when an advance of 1/2 to 1 cent was effective. Demand for storage butter was somewhat improved and out-of-storage movement was heavier. Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 51¢; Chicago 49 3/4¢; Philadelphia 52¢; Boston 50 1/2¢.

Cheese markets continued irregular under the influence of slow demand and accumulations of cheese at primary points. Closing prices on Wisconsin primary markets November 13: Single Dairies 23 1/4¢; Longhorns 23 1/8¢; Square Prints 24 1/2¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 38 points during the week, closing at 20.23¢ per lb. New York December future contracts advanced 34 points, closing at 20.64¢.

Market for best grades timothy hay continues firm but lower grades in over-supply at several markets. Alfalfa lower at Kansas City but firm at Omaha. Prairie receipts slightly in excess of demand in southwestern markets. Quoted Nov. 11: No.1 timothy - Boston $27; New York $29.50; Pittsburgh $25 Cincinnati $25; Chicago $26; St. Louis $28; Kansas City $18.50. No.1 alfalfa Kansas City $21; Omaha $19.50; Memphis $29; No.1 prairie Kansas City $14; Omaha $14.75; Chicago $20; St. Louis $18.50. (Prepared by Bu; of Agri Econ.)

- - -